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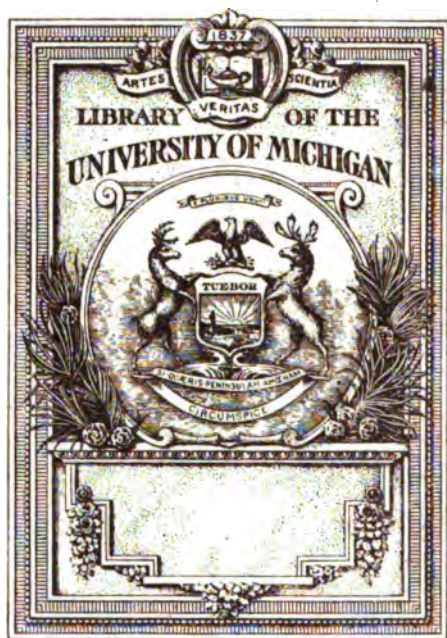
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THE NEW
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.
VOL. III.

THE NEW
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

BY
THE MINISTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES, UNDER THE
SUPERINTENDENCE OF A COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF THE CLERGY.

VOL. III.
ROXBURGH—PEEBLES—SELKIRK.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.
MDCCCXLV.

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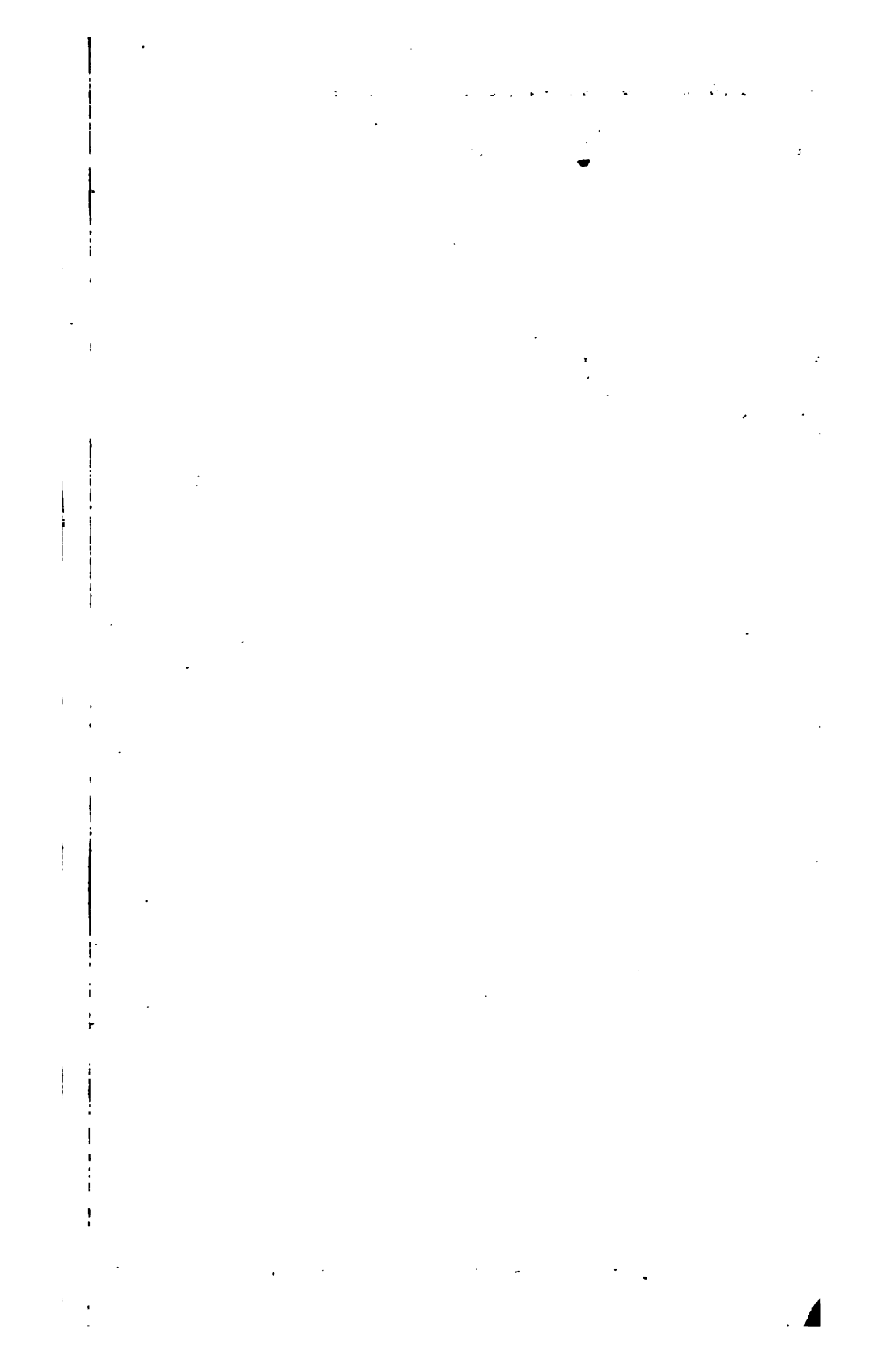
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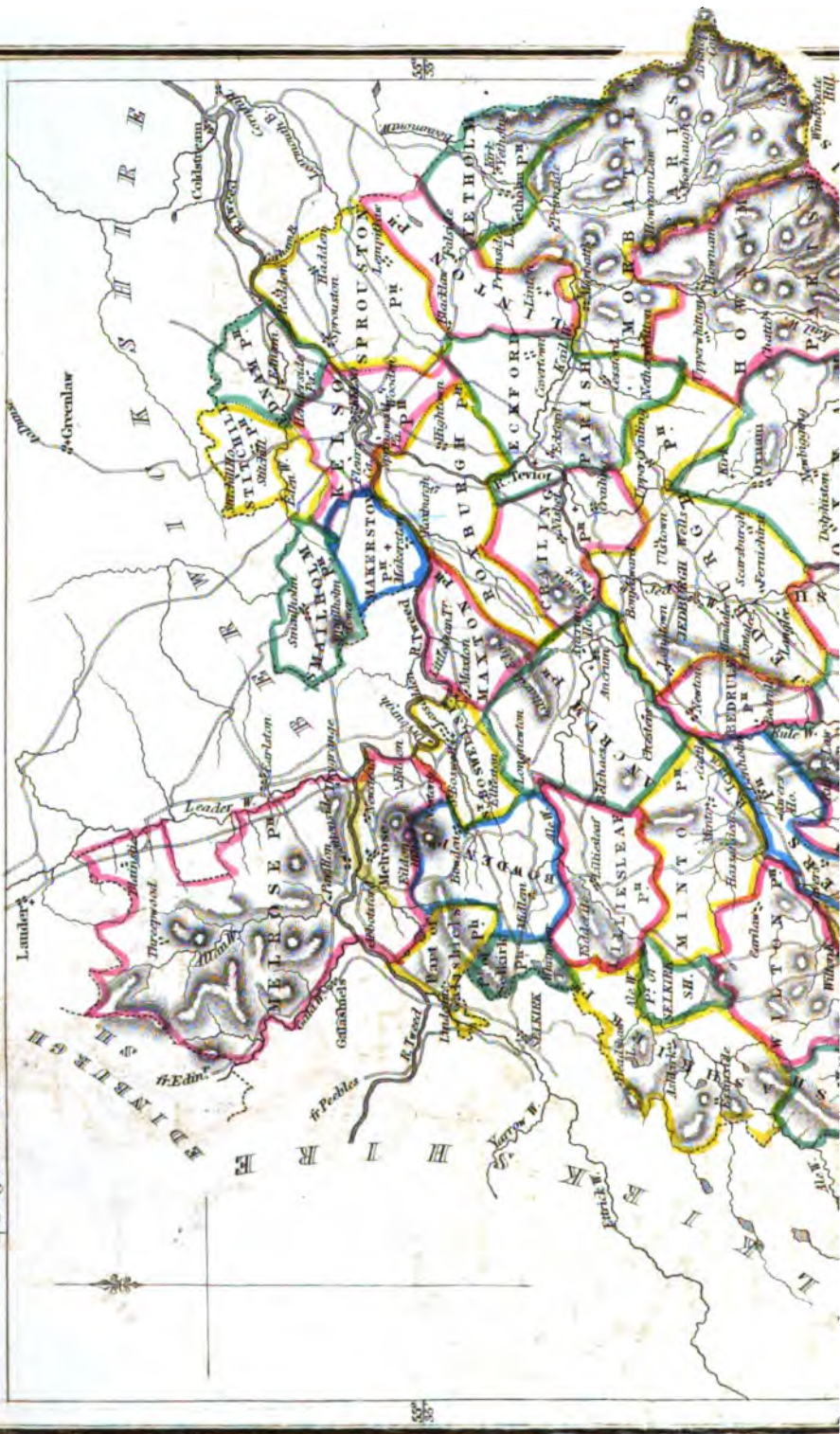
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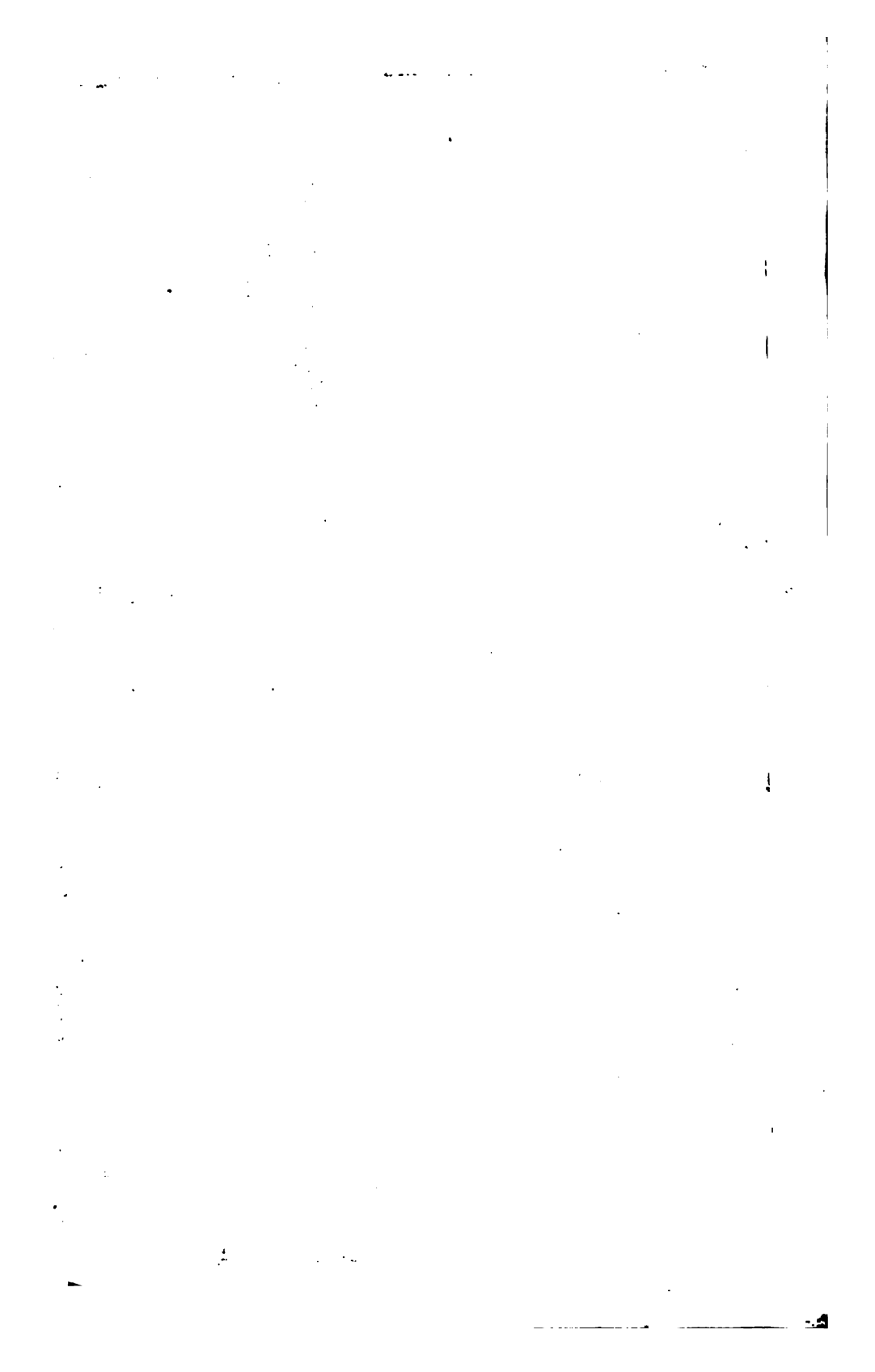
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PARISH OF JEDBURGH.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. JOHN PURVES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish appears to have been at a former period indiscriminately written, Gedworde, Jedworth, Jedwood, and Jedburgh. The name of the river, which is the only essential part of these compounds, being anciently written Ged, and perhaps Gad, has given rise to the probable conjecture, that this was the principal seat of the Gadeni, a tribe who inhabited the district between the river Tiviot and Northumberland.

Extent, &c.—The parish consists of two detached portions, which are in figure exceedingly irregular. The first or lower division, (in which is situate the town of Jedburgh in Long. 10° 10' W. in time, and Lat. 55° 28' 45" N.) is in some places seven miles long and five broad; and the second, or higher division, is five miles long and four broad. The whole parish contains 38 square miles. It is bounded by the parishes of Ancrum and Crailing on the north; by Oxnam and Eckford on the east; by Bedrule and Southdean on the west; and by the county of Northumberland on the south. It is intersected by Oxnam and Southdean.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface is greatly diversified, presenting an agreeable variety of hills and valleys. Through its centre runs the deep sinuous valley of the Jed; whilst the higher ground on either side, indented by numerous ravines, rises by an undulating ascent to the height of nearly 300 feet above the level of the river. The highest hill in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh is the Dunjan, which is 1120 feet above the level of the sea; but its summit is in the parish of Bedrule. In the higher part of the parish, there are several beautiful green hills of a conical form, two of which are upwards of 1100 feet above the sea; but, being situate near the Carter Fell, a mountain of the Cheviot range, the height of which is 2020 feet, their elevation is not conspicuous.

Climate.—The climate varies considerably. In Jedburgh and ROXBURGH.

the valley, which are sheltered by the banks of the river, it is mild and temperate; whilst in the higher and more exposed parts it is colder. The mean temperature is 47° of Fahrenheit. The mean pressure of the atmosphere is 29.3 inches. The greatest extremes during the last twenty years were 1821, December 25, 27.85 inches, and 1825, January 9, 30.55 inches. The town of Jedburgh is remarkably healthy, being subject to fewer epidemical diseases than either of the neighbouring towns of Kelso and Hawick. Cholera, which, in the year 1832, visited both these places, never entered this parish, although it twice approached its very boundaries. As might be expected from the salubrity of the climate, there are numerous instances of longevity. At present, five or six persons are above ninety, and one has completed his hundredth year. At a Reform dinner which took place in 1832, the united ages of three women, including the chairwoman, amounted to 264. She occupied a chair which was made in the year 1674, and on which the Pretender had sat when he passed through Jedburgh in 1745, and her gown had seen 100 summers.

Hydrography.—This parish possesses abundance of excellent perennial springs, with a mean temperature of 47° Fahrenheit. At Tudhope, about half a mile from Jedburgh, there is a spring strongly impregnated with sulphur and iron, which has long been resorted to for the cure of scorbutic disorders. There are several chalybeate springs, in various parts of the parish, and at Gilliestongues there is a petrifying spring.

The Jed, which flows through nearly the whole length of the parish, rises on the north side of the Carlin Tooth, one of the Cheviot mountains, in the parish of Southdean, at the distance of about fourteen miles from Jedburgh, and joins the Tiviot about two and a half miles below the town. It receives many tributary streamlets; and rushing over a rocky channel, betwixt woody banks and lofty scars, fringed with shrubs, and crowned with the oak, the beech, and the weeping birch, presents in its course a succession of highly picturesque and romantic scenes. Its general direction is from south to north. Its waters are pure and salubrious. Its breadth is about twenty yards; and, having a fall of thirty feet per mile, its velocity is considerable. The eastern part of the parish is watered by the Oxnam, and through the north of it flows the Tiviot, winding beautifully through its wide and fertile vale.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The nature and position of the rocks afford abundant materials for the speculations of the geologist. At

a quarter of a mile to the south of Jedburgh is the remarkable precipice of which Dr Hutton has given a drawing in his *Theory of the Earth*. There, both the primary and secondary formations are seen at one view. The strata of the primary rocks are vertical, and in many places their irregularity seems to indicate the effects of some great convulsion. These strata, at their junction with the secondary formation, are interspersed with thin layers of limestone. The strata of the secondary formation are horizontal, consisting of red freestone dent, alternating with soft sandstone of the same colour. This latter stratification is beautifully exemplified in the lofty precipitous banks of the Jed, throughout the lower part of its course. With the red are frequently combined thin strata of a pale yellow and of a bluish-gray. The strata are in general exceedingly regular, but there is no uniform dip. In some places there are remarkable breaks, as at Sunnybrae, where the general direction of the strata is suddenly interrupted, and they fall down in a direction nearly opposite; and at Hundalee Mill, where they are curiously broken and bent into curves. At Kersheugh the Jed is crossed by a dike of primary rocks, through which it appears to have forced its way with difficulty. A similar dike occurs at Roughly-nook Hill, and runs in an easterly direction up Edgerston Rigg. Above the red there is abundance of excellent white sandstone, which may be found in all the more elevated situations throughout the parish. Some of the hills, however, consist of whin reposing on the sandstone. At the Carter Fell, which forms the southern boundary of the parish, there is great plenty of excellent limestone; and at Hunthill, about two miles from Jedburgh, there are six strata ranged at different distances above each other, the thickest of which is nine inches. A temporary kiln was erected there about sixty years ago, but was soon abandoned on account of the expense of coal. In the glen near Hunthill House there are considerable appearances of coal formation; and at a short distance from this, various trials had been made for coal, as appears from the council-records of Jedburgh, so early as the year 1660. In the year 1798 a bore was sunk, nine feet distant from an old pit, at the expense of the county of Roxburgh, to the depth of forty-five fathoms. At the depth of thirty-five fathoms, a hard bluish-gray freestone had just been pierced through, when the rods suddenly sunk four feet without any pressure. This appeared to some to confirm the current belief, that coals had been formerly found there; and they explained the sudden descent of

the rods on the supposition, that they had already been extracted in that direction. When forty-five fathoms had been reached without success, the directors ordered the old pit to be opened; and when the workmen had proceeded to the depth of eight fathoms, they found the remains of a horse gin with an axle of oak, the iron part of which was much worn. They were unable to descend farther without machinery to draw off the water, and the funds being exhausted, the undertaking was relinquished. In digging amongst the rubbish thrown out of the old pit, a hard gray stone was found, with a piece of well-formed coal attached to one of its sides.

The only ore hitherto found in the parish is that of iron, which occurs in a bed of about three feet thickness, at a short distance from Jedburgh, near the precipice already mentioned. It lies betwixt the primitive and secondary formations. A quantity of vitrified matter was lately dug up on Howdean Moor, resembling what is found at vitrified forts. It was comprised, however, within the space of six feet. The soil did not appear to have been exposed to the action of fire. In draining bogs at Scarsburgh and Hunt-hill, hazelnuts, together with a few remnants of black oak, were found at the depth of ten feet. Oak-trees of great dimensions are occasionally found in the alluvial soil at the side of the Tiviot.

As might be expected from the extent of the parish, and the inequality of the surface, the soil is various, consisting of clay, of a mixture of clay and sand or gravel in various proportions, and in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh chiefly of loam.

Zoology.—The squirrel is found in the parish. The horned-owl, the fern-owl, and the kingfisher, are frequently found on the banks of the Jed; and in the more elevated parts of the parish, the plover, the dotterel, and fieldfare, are common. The starling, which for many years had disappeared, has again returned, and become common. The following are a few of the rare insects:—*Bembidium impressum*, *Tetratoma fungorum*, *Nitidula punctatissima*, *N. grisea*, *Telephorus cyaneus*, *Ptinus imperialis*, *Rhynchites cylindricus*, *Sphaeristes immaculatus*, *Lophyrus pini*, *Hipparchia blandina*, *Sphinx ligustri*, *Chironomus elegans*, and *Sargus Reaumurii*. *

Botany.—The botany of this parish has not yet been sufficiently investigated. The whole extent of it was anciently covered with natural wood, and was known by the name of Jed Forest, which also included Southdean and part of the neighbouring parishes.

* *Vide* Stephens' Entomology.

The remains of the ancient forest, amounting to many hundred acres, were rapaciously cut down during the last century; but the trees which have sprung from the old stocks, together with the plantations which have since reached maturity, still render this a well-wooded district. A few patches of the ancient forest may still be seen in the neighbourhood of Fernihirst, consisting chiefly of birch. In lower situations every species of forest trees grow luxuriantly; and in higher, Scotch fir and larch are most common. The Scotch fir at Stewartfield has attained a great age and size, and is much esteemed in carpentry, being thought little inferior to American fir. The ancient forest still possesses two venerable representatives in the "King of the Wood," and the "Capon-tree," oaks situate near the Newcastle road, at the distance of one mile from Jedburgh. The "King of the Wood," towering above the surrounding trees, rises to the height of 99 feet, the circumference of its trunk, at three feet from the ground, being 14 feet. The "Capon-tree," which stands alone in a haugh opposite Hundalee Mill, has a more aged and gnarled appearance than the monarch, and, dividing into a multiplicity of boughs, is much admired for the fantastic twisting of its wide-spreading branches. The circumference of its trunk at three feet from the ground is 21 feet.

The soil and situation of Jedburgh are peculiarly congenial to the growth of fruit trees, and of this the intelligent ecclesiastics who inhabited the monastery appear to have taken due advantage, as many pear-trees still exist, which, from their size and the slow progress of their growth, are thought to be at least three hundred years old. The oldest are of the following kinds: the Longueville, the summer Bon Chretien, the Ludd, the autumn Bergamot, the Pound pear, the Red honey, the White Warden, the Gray Warden, and the Gray Good-wife. Of a great age, but not quite so old as these, are the Gray Auchan, the Red Auchan, the Worry Carl, the Buchanan, the Drummond, the Golden Knop, the Lamias, and the Pitfirran. One of the largest of the red honey pear trees has been known to produce in one season sixty imperial bushels. Of the Longueville, there is a fine specimen in Friars gardens, which, though much decayed through age, continues to produce excellent crops. In the "Lady's Yards," or convent garden, a very old white warden pear-tree was blown down, which measured eight feet in circumference near the ground. In the orchard adjoining the house which was inhabited by Queen Mary during her illness at Jedburgh, there is a group of trees of the same kind, said by tra-

dition to have been branches of a large tree which was blown down by a tempest on the night when King James VI. crossed the border to take possession of his English dominions. The tree being allowed to lie on its side, and buried in the earth, the branches became each a separate tree. Two of the oldest of the gray warden pear-trees have been known to bear in one season, the one 53 imperial bushels, and the other 56. The pears which are most esteemed, and to which Jedburgh is chiefly indebted for its celebrity for fruit, are the Longueville, the summer Bon Chretien, the autumn Bergamot; the Ludd, the red and the gray Auchan. The old apple-trees are much inferior to those cultivated in modern times. The soil is a rich black loam, and this, combined with the delightful sheltered situation, enables gardeners to succeed in rearing delicate trees, which scarcely grow in other parts of the country. As a proof of this, it may be mentioned, that Coe's imperial plum succeeds admirably as a standard, and produces fruit equal in quality to what grows on walls in gardens two miles distant from Jedburgh. In the garden of Mr Deans, the miller grape has several times ripened in the open air without any species of covering.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—The two Jedworths are the most ancient parochial divisions in Scotland. Various notices of their history are to be found in books devoted to ecclesiastical antiquities, and the annals of border warfare. The magnificence of its ecclesiastical establishments, the fastnesses of its forest, which was frequently the rendezvous of armies,—its castles, and the number of its fortified houses, rendered this parish at a former period of much more consequence than it has been since the Reformation and the union. From its proximity to the border, it was the continual scene of war and of lawless violence, from the time when Donald V. here defeated the confederate princes of Northumberland and Cumberland, to the year 1575, when the "Raid of the Reid Swire," which took place on its southern boundary, terminated the hostile feuds between the two kingdoms. Since these troublous times, few events have occurred worthy of being recorded. The alarm produced by the arrival of the Pretender with his Highlanders in 1745, is still remembered by a very few of the oldest inhabitants. The denomination of dissenters termed Relief originated here under Mr Boston in the year 1754.

Historical Documents.—A curious manuscript account of the various proceedings relative to the origin of the Relief, drawn up by the

kirk-session at that period, is in the possession of Mr Renwick, bookseller, Jedburgh. The only other documents illustrative of the history of the parish, are the charters and council-records of the borough of Jedburgh. The ancient charters all perished during the English wars, the town having been frequently reduced to ashes. They were all, however, renewed and confirmed by Queen Mary in the year 1556, when the magistrates were invested with the power of apprehending and committing criminals, of putting them to the knowledge of an assize, and of administering justice even unto death. Another charter was granted by King James VI. in the year 1569, conferring upon the provost, magistrates, and community, all the property and revenues within the parish belonging to the Abbey of Jedburgh, for the purpose of erecting hospitals, supporting the poor and infirm, and for other pious uses. This charter was ratified in Parliament, December 19, 1597, but no in-fetment appears to have been taken upon it, and there is no trace of any particular subject having been taken possession of under it. Another charter was granted by King Charles II. in the year 1641. The council-records have been preserved only from the year 1619.

Eminent Characters.—A considerable number of eminent characters have been connected with this parish at various periods of its history. St Kennock, who is said, by his effectual intercessions, to have preserved peace between the two kingdoms for the space of ten years, was Abbot of Jedburgh in the year 1000. To him succeeded a long line of abbots, many of whom, from being employed in embassies, and other important political transactions, appear to have been men of distinguished learning and prudence.—Sir William Stewart of Jedworth, who was taken prisoner with his relative Douglas at Homildon, and, by the lawless orders of Hotspur, drawn and quartered, was remarkable both as a warrior and as a statesman, being honoured with the confidence of his sovereign, and frequently employed to represent the interests of his country.—In the Convent of Carmelites, which was founded by the inhabitants of Jedburgh, lived and died Adam Bell, author of *Rota Temporum*, a history of Scotland from the earliest times to the year 1535.—At a period somewhat later, Jedburgh had the honour of giving birth to John Rutherford, Principal of St Salvator's College, St Andrews, author of a book on the art of reasoning.*—The celebrated Samuel Rutherford,† Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrews, was born in the adjoining parish of Nisbet, now annexed

* *Vide* M'Crie's Life of Melville.

† *Vide* Murray's Life of Rutherford.

to Crailing, and is generally thought to have received his education at the grammar-school of Jedburgh.—Andrew Young, Regent of Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, under whom Rutherford studied, was born of poor parents near Jedburgh.—Andrew Rutherford, master of the grammar-school of Jedburgh, was promoted to the rectorship of the High School of Edinburgh in 1669.—Here Gabriel Semple found a resting-place after the many troubles which he sustained during the Episcopal persecution.—At the grammar-school of Jedburgh, the poet Thomson, whose father was minister of Southdean, received the rudiments of his education.—This parish enjoyed for three years the ministrations of the celebrated Dr Macknight; and the long incumbency of the venerable Dr Somerville, historian of Queen Anne, &c. who had attained the ninetieth year of his age, and the sixty-third of his ministry, terminated in the year 1830. He was admitted minister of Jedburgh in 1773, and when he died, was father of the Church of Scotland.—Jedburgh was the native place, and long the residence of the distinguished land-surveyor John Ainslie; and it has had the honour of giving birth to one of the most illustrious of living philosophers, Sir David Brewster.

Chief Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are the Marquis of Lothian, Mr Rutherford of Edgerston, Mr Miller of Stewartfield, the Earl of Minto, Mr Jerdon of Bonjedward, Mr Ormiston of Glenburnhall, Mr Fair of Langlee, &c.

Parochial Registers.—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial registers is February 14, 1639. They are not voluminous, and it is to be regretted that they have been somewhat carelessly kept.

Antiquities.—At Old Jedworth, about four miles above the present town, are the ruins of a chapel which was founded by Ecgrid, bishop of Lindisfarn, who died A. D. 845. It is situate amidst a clump of trees, in a level field at the side of the river. Its walls have crumbled into mounds, and the tombstones in its church-yard are scarcely visible above the grass. Interesting as is this sacred spot, it has attracted little attention in comparison of the more prominent and magnificent remains of the abbey of Jedburgh. This venerable structure stands on the south side of the town, on the declining bank of the river, which winds past it in front, washing some remnants of its outworks. The chapter-house, cloisters, and other appendages have perished, and nothing remains but the church, which, in the form of a cross, extends from east to west

230 feet. The choir is much dilapidated, bearing marks of great antiquity. The two lower stories consist of massive pillars and semicircular arches, with the diagonal or zigzag mouldings of Saxon architecture, whilst the upper windows, and some other parts are Gothic, evidently added at a more recent period. The north transept is entire, presenting traceried Gothic windows, especially one of great size and beauty. The south transept has disappeared. Above the intersection of the transepts with the nave and choir, a large square tower rises on four pillars to the height of 100 feet, surmounted by a projecting battlement, and crowned with turrets and pinnacles. The nave, measuring 130 feet long, presents on each side three tiers of arches; the first, opening into the aisle, consists of pointed arches deeply recessed, and richly moulded, supported by clustered columns with sculptured capitals; the second, which opened into the galleries, consists of beautifully moulded semicircular arches, with two pointed arches inserted in each; and the third of elegant pointed windows. The lofty western gable possesses a Norman door of uncommon beauty, the archway exhibiting a profusion of ornamented mouldings, supported by slender pillars to the depth of $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet. Above it is a large window with a semicircular arch, flanked by small blank pointed arches on long slender shafts, and this is surmounted by a beautiful St Catherine's wheel. On the south side of the choir there is a chapel, which was once appropriated to the use of the grammar-school, and in which the poet Thomson received his education. But the chief object of architectural interest in this abbey is the Norman door, which formed the southern entrance to the church from the cloisters. This, for the elegance of its workmanship, and the symmetry of its proportions, is unrivalled in Scotland. Its sculptured mouldings springing from slender shafts, with capitals richly wreathed, exhibit the representations of flowers, men, and various animals, executed with surprising minuteness and delicacy.

"This venerable pile," says the late Archibald Elliot, architect, in his report to the heritors respecting some of its projected repairs, "in my opinion, is the most perfect and beautiful example of the Saxon and early Gothic in Scotland." Its grand appearance is imposing, and admirably accords with the scenery of the romantic valley in which it is situate. There is a discrepancy in the accounts of historians relative to the time of its foundation as an abbey. Some refer it to A. D. 1118, and others to A. D. 1147. The probability is, considering the antique remains of the choir, and that St Kennoch is said to have been Abbot of Jedburgh so

early as the year 1000, that it was an abbey prior to the time of David I., and, instead of being founded, that it was rebuilt and enlarged by that munificent monarch. It frequently suffered during the English wars, particularly by the invasions of Edward I. It was burned and pillaged by the Earl of Surrey at the storming of Jedburgh in the year 1523, and it was subsequently reduced to a state of dilapidation by the Earl of Hertford in 1545. Its walls still exhibit the traces of the flames, as they had burst through its arches. Considerable portions of it, including two beautiful doors and several aisles, were demolished in more recent times by the direction of persons of whom the reverse might have been expected; but a better taste now prevails, and it lately underwent some practical repairs. The substructions of its buildings have been occasionally found at a great distance from the remaining fabric. The burial-ground attached to it was very extensive. In constructing the present road, which passes through its ancient limits, two tiers of coffins were removed, formed of stone slabs.

Of the Convent of Carmelites, and of the Maison Dieu, no traces remain, but the names of various places in the town still indicate the prevalence of ecclesiastical institutions. The chapel of Scarsburgh and the church of Upper Crailing (an ancient parish now attached to this) have likewise disappeared.

This parish possessed two castles, Jedburgh and Fernihirst. The name of Jedburgh Castle appears in the earliest Scottish records, but it does not appear by whom it was founded. It was a royal residence, and for ages continued a place of great strength, the object of eager dispute to the contending kingdoms. It was the favourite abode of the amiable Malcolm IV., who died there A. D. 1165. It was frequently honoured with the presence of William the Lion, and of Alexander II. To Alexander III. was born in Jedburgh Castle a son, A. D. 1263, who was named Alexander; and this, the same sovereign, after he had lost all his children, thought a fitting scene for the unusual pomp which attended his marriage with Jolande, daughter of the Count de Dreux. It was in the possession of the English from the battle of Durham till the year 1409, when it was taken by the Scots and demolished with great labour and at great expense, as is evident from the proposal which was made to defray it by a tax of two pennies upon every hearth in Scotland. A small portion of its remaining walls was removed a few years ago, and on levelling its site for the erection of the present structure, charred beams of oak were found mixed with rubbish of stone and lime. A few coins were also

found, together with a number of globular stones, from seven inches to one foot in diameter, which appear to have been the cope stones of its turrets.

Fernihirst was the stronghold of the ancestors of the Marquis of Lothian, and is situate on the eastern bank of the Jed, nearly two miles above Jedburgh. It was taken by Surrey in 1523, and recovered by the Scots with the assistance of the French auxiliaries then stationed at Jedburgh, after a desperate conflict, in 1549. Here the Earl of Westmoreland took refuge from the vengeance of Elizabeth in 1569. In the following year the castle was taken and demolished by the Earl of Sussex and Sir John Foster, in consequence of an incursion which Ker* had made with other border chiefs into the north of England. It was rebuilt in the year 1598, and its gray turrets are still seen peering above the tall venerable trees which surround it.

Besides these fortresses, the parish was thickly studded with towers and peels. Those at Hundalee and Hunthill, ancient seats of the Rutherfurds, and at Bonjedward, a seat of the Douglasses, were places of great strength, but they were, along with many others, destroyed during the last century. A tower still remains at Lanton, and the ruins of Timpandean, at a short distance from it, still remind us of warlike times. Of the six towers by which Jedburgh was defended after the destruction of the castle, there are no remains. A tower used as the gaol, which stood in the centre of the street not far from the cross, was removed during the last century, as also the ruins of Abbot's Tower, the site of which is now occupied by the Dispensary. The house which was inhabited by Queen Mary during her illness at Jedburgh is still entire. It is a large building with small windows, and walls of great thickness. A broad stone stair ascends to the second story, and a narrow winding stair leads to the third, and the apartment of Queen Mary, which is a small room with two windows. Some of the ancient tapestry which adorned it is still preserved. This is styled in the Privy-Council Record "the house of the Lord Compositor." It was purchased by the late Dr Lindsay from the family of Scott of Ancrum. One of Claverhouse's pistols, presented by him to an ancestor of Dr Lindsay's, was formerly suspended in the dining-room, but this is now at Abbotsford.

Traces of ancient camps exist at Howdean, Swinnie, Fernihirst,

* Ker of Fernihirst, along with Ker of Cessford, Scott of Buccleuch, and several others, received the honour of knighthood from the Regent Arran, when David Panter, in presence of a great assemblage of nobility, was consecrated Bishop of Ross at Jedburgh in the year 1552.—*Vide* Lesly, Book x.

and Camptown, but it is to be regretted that proprietors have not exerted themselves to preserve them from the ravages of the farmer. At Scarsburgh there is a fine circular camp in good preservation, about 60 yards in diameter and with ramparts nearly 20 feet high. There is a Roman Camp near Monklaw, which appears to have been about 160 yards square. The neighbouring moor is said by tradition to have been the scene of a battle. But the most interesting of these ancient remains is the celebrated camp at Lintalee, described in Barbour's Bruce, which was formed by Douglas for the defence of the borders during the absence of Bruce in Ireland. In the neighbourhood of this camp, Richmond, the English warden, fell in a personal encounter with Douglas, having invaded Scotland with 10,000 men, whom he had provided with hatchets to level Jed forest with the ground. This strong position is formed by the steep and precipitous bank of the Jed and a deep ravine, and was defended on the side towards the rising ground by a double rampart, which still remains.

At Hundalee, Lintalee, and Mossburnford, there are caves dug out of the rock in the banks of the Jed, which in former times were used for concealing property and as places of refuge. That at Lintalee is in the face of the precipice below the camp, and is now inaccessible. The Hundalee cave consists of three apartments, a large one with a smaller on each side.

The Roman road passes through the north of the parish, at the distance of two miles from Jedburgh. It is here in a state of preservation, being paved with whinstones. It crosses the Jed and the Tiviot, about half a-mile above their junction. Another ancient road passes over the height from Ancrum Bridge towards Jedburgh. At the foot of the Canongate of Jedburgh there is a bridge of great antiquity, consisting of three semicircular ribbed arches. It is neatly built with squared stones, and on its centre there was formerly a gateway, which, like the ancient cross of Jedburgh, and many other interesting relics of past ages, disappeared before the encroachments of the last century. At the end of the New Bridge, next Bongate, there is a large stone which appears to have formed part of an ancient obelisk. It is covered with indistinct characters and representations of animals, and on the top there is a tenon for receiving the mortise of the incumbent stone. It is probably part of the ancient Cross of Bongate.

Great numbers of ancient coins have been, on many occasions, found in different parts of the parish, but, being dispersed in a great number of hands, it is not easy to obtain a satisfactory ac-

count either of their numbers, or of the reigns to which they belonged. In the year 1827, upwards of ninety Saxon silver coins were dug up in a field at Bongate, belonging to three different reigns, but chiefly to Ethelred, together with a ring curiously formed of silver twine. One of them belonged to the reign of Canute. Several of these coins are now in the possession of Mr Bainbridge of Gattonside. Many coins have been found at the side of the Jed, near the Abbey Bridge, where rubbish from the Abbey and other parts of the town had been deposited. These, as far as we have been able to ascertain, belonged chiefly to the reigns of Edred, Edwy, Ethelred, Edward I., Edward III., Henry I., and Henry III. Some Roman coins are said to have been found at Stewartfield. About twelve years ago, a horn was found near Swinnie, containing silver coins of James I. of Scotland; and in the spring of the present year, between 300 and 400 silver coins were ploughed up in a field in front of the farm-house, of the reigns of Henry VIII., James V., and Queen Mary. A silver coin, or medal, was lately found at Leukhall, near Jedburgh, which had been struck on occasion of the marriage of Queen Mary with the Dauphin. On the one side are the letters F and M combined in one, surmounted by a crown, and surrounded by the inscription, *PECIT. VTRAQUE. VNVM. 1558.* On the other side are the combined arms of Scotland and the Dauphin, with the inscription *FRAN. ET. MA. D. G. R. R. SCOTOR. D. D. VIEN.* This interesting piece, which is about the size of a half crown, is in the possession of the Hon. General Leslie, Jedbank.

A camp-kettle was found at Edgerston about ten years ago, and was presented by Mr Rutherford to Sir Walter Scott. Flint arrow-heads are occasionally found in the parish, particularly on Howdean moor, which tradition represents as a field of battle. About the year 1815, a stone sarcophagus was discovered in a garden adjoining the west side of the High Street of Jedburgh, belonging to John Selkirk, upholsterer. It was composed of large unhewn slabs of stone; being 4 feet 6 inches long, and 2 feet 6 inches broad. On removing the lid, a large urn was discovered at the one end lying on its side, and at the other, three smaller were standing, one of which contained a quantity of pure water. Near the large urn were fragments of skulls, and the intermediate space was occupied by decayed bones. The large urn is said to have been elegantly shaped. Two of them mouldered away on being touched. One of the smaller, which is still in the possession of Mr Selkirk, is slightly ornamented. In the same garden,

which in some of the ancient charters is styled "Temple Garden," substructions of ancient buildings have been found at the depth of six feet from the surface.

Accustomed to incessant warfare, the inhabitants of Jedburgh and its forest were in ancient times much distinguished for bravery. "I assure your Grace," says Lord Surrey, addressing Henry VIII. respecting the storming of Jedburgh, "that I found the Scots at this time the boldest men and the hottest that ever I saw in any nation, and all the *journee*; upon all parts of the army they kept us with such continued skirmishes, that I never beheld the like. If they could assemble 40,000 as good men as the 1500 or 2000 I saw, it would be hard to encounter them." Their favourite weapon was the Jedwood axe, which was manufactured at Jedburgh. Their war cry, or slogan, was "Jedworth's here." The corporation of weavers possess two trophies,—one taken from the English at Bannockburn, and another from the Highlanders at Killiecrankie. The corporation of shoemakers possess one trophy, taken from the English at the battle of Newburn. The town-arms were anciently azure, a unicorn tripping, ringled, maned and horned; but these were succeeded by the present, a knight mounted in full armour, with the motto, "Strenue et prospere." The term "Jedworth Justice," which implies execution before trial, is supposed to have originated in the illegal and tyrannical proceedings of Dunbar* when superintending the courts of justice at Jedburgh.

Modern Buildings.—The chief modern buildings are, Jedburgh Castle, containing a bridewell and prisons for criminals and debtors; the county-hall; and the meeting-houses of the first congregation of Seceders, and of the Relief. The modern mansion-houses are, Edgerston, Mossburnford, Langlee, Lintalee, Hundalee, Glenburnhall, Hunthill, Stewartfield, and Bonjedward. There are corn mills at Fernihirst, Hundalee, Newmills, Bonjedward, and two at Jedburgh. There are three manufactories at Jedburgh upon a respectable scale. These buildings are constructed of freestone.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish appears to have been anciently much greater than it is at present. In his dispatches to the court of Henry VIII., Lord Surrey states, that there were twice as many houses in Jedburgh as in Berwick, and well built, with many fair houses in garrison, and six good towers. The foundations of ancient houses have occasionally been dug up at a great distance from

* *Vide* Border Minstrelsy, Vol. i. p. 50.

any of the modern buildings. The Townhead, or Castle Street, from the remains found in the gardens, appears to have presented on each side a series of closes, which might contain a dense population. About fifty years ago, many dwelling-houses, and upwards of forty malt-kilns, might be seen in ruins. In the country part of the parish many farm-houses have disappeared; and in more than one instance, the site of a village is occupied by a single farm-house with its appendages. On the Jed are the ruins of four corn-mills. In the town this decrease of population has generally been ascribed to the influence of the union upon its trade; and in the country, to the union of farms. In general, one individual now possesses what formerly supported five or six respectable families. The monopoly of farms, though undoubtedly favourable to agriculture, has yet deprived the community of many of its most valuable members, by reducing them to the necessity of emigrating. It has lowered the character of the peasantry, and promoted the increase of pauperism.

The population has, however, of late years been steadily increasing. The number of persons residing in the town at last census is 3617, in villages 403, and in the country 1627, in all 5647. In 1811 it was 4454; in 1821, 5251. The total number of heritors is 82. Five of the larger proprietors reside in the parish. The number of those who are proprietors of land to the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is 44.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | - | 1232 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | 234 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | - | 543 |

The Scottish dialect is spoken throughout the parish, with a few local peculiarities. It is gradually losing ground; but the corrupt English, which is succeeding, is scarcely to be regarded as an improvement. The only popular game is that of ball, which, according to ancient custom, is celebrated at three different stations,—Jedburgh, Lanton, and Camptown. The ball is thrown with the hand towards the appointed goal, and, as the combatants are in general numerous and athletic, the struggle is often protracted and severe. The time when this game is played at Jedburgh is Eastern's eve, which is always the Tuesday following the first new moon after Candlemas.

The inhabitants of this parish are in general intelligent, sober, orderly, and industrious. The bad effects of the reduction of the duty upon ardent spirits have indeed been felt to no small extent, but happily not to such a degree as to affect the general character

of the people. "It is, indeed, one of the most striking evidences of the progress of civilization, and one of the most pleasing effects of a regular government, that, in a country formerly the scene of depredating violence, fewer instances of crimes, or of punishments, have occurred during the last fifty years, than perhaps in any other district of equal extent in the kingdom."

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

| | |
|---|--------|
| The number of acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is, as nearly as can be ascertained, | 14,281 |
| The number of acres which remain constantly in pasture is | 6930 |
| under wood is | 2488 |

In the vicinity of Jedburgh the highest cultivation prevails.

Rent of Land.—The annual rent of the fields adjoining the town is from L. 4 to L. 5 per acre. The general average is L. 2, 10s. per acre. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of from L. 2, 15s. to L. 5 per ox or cow, and at the rate of 12s. for Leicester, and 6s. for Cheviot sheep.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of ploughmen are paid by means of grain, potatoes, and the pasture of a cow, together with a small allowance of money, and amount to about L. 26 per annum. Other farm-labourers receive 1s. 8d. per day, and women 10d. Smiths generally contract at the rate of from L. 2, 10s. to L. 2, 15s. per annum, for keeping in repair a plough, and a pair of harrows, and for shoeing a pair of horses; furnishing for this purpose the necessary iron. Carpenters receive from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day; masons 2s. 6d. per day. The price of manure per cart load is 3s. 6d.; and the price of lime 11d.

Husbandry.—The husbandry generally pursued is the five-brick or five-shift husbandry, consisting of two white and three green crops. During the last twenty years, an immense quantity of waste land has been reclaimed, and in a short period, all that is capable of improvement will be reduced to a state of cultivation. The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which, on the whole, is favourable both to the landlord and the tenant. The farm-buildings are mostly new and commodious; the inclosures are numerous, and kept in good repair. The improvements which have been effected on the estate of Hunthill, consisting of draining, planting, &c. are deserving of particular notice, and reflect great credit on the spirited proprietor Mr Bell.

Quarries.—There are several excellent quarries in the parish, both of white and of a reddish-coloured sandstone.

Produce.—The average yearly amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, are as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|---|---|
| Grain of all kinds, | - | - | L. 20,580 | 2 | 0 |
| Potatoes, &c. | - | - | 8,460 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, | - | - | 2,480 | 0 | 0 |
| Crops cultivated for the arts, | - | - | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Land in pasture, | - | - | 8,270 | 0 | 0 |
| Gardens and orchards, | - | - | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual thinning and felling of woods, | - | - | 400 | 0 | 0 |
| Mines, &c. | - | - | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| In all, | | | L. 40,310 | 2 | 0 |

Manufactures.—The principal manufactures are blankets, flannels, tartans, shawls, shepherd's plaidings, hosiery, lamb's wool yarn, and carpets, for which between 300 and 400 hands are constantly employed. In the woollen manufactories, the usual time of labour for men, women, and children, may be stated at from ten to twelve hours daily. In the mills, the time of labour is fixed by the masters; it was shortened about twenty years ago, long hours being found unprofitable to the employer, and injurious to the labourer. The wages are fully equal to what is given for similar work in other parts of the country, but are by no means a fair remuneration to those who are employed in these manufactories. There are also an iron and brass foundry, and an establishment for the manufacture of printing presses, conducted by Mr Hope, the inventor, under a patent, for which twenty hands are constantly employed. The occupations, both at the mills and at the foundry, are remarkably healthy, no instance having occurred of any individual being obliged to withdraw on account of ill health contracted at these establishments. The effect on morals is not so favourable. Children entering at the age of nine, only partially instructed in reading, have little opportunity of acquiring religious knowledge.

Associations.—There is a farmers' club for promoting the improvement of stock, and of agriculture. The Roxburghshire Horticultural Society meets at Jedburgh once a-month, commencing with April, and terminating with September, where prizes are awarded to successful competitors for flowers, fruit, vegetables, &c.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The only market-town in the parish is Jedburgh, a royal borough, the county town of Roxburghshire, the seat of a presbytery, and of a Circuit Court of Justiciary. It is governed by a council, consisting of a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, and eighteen ordinary councillors. There are eight incorporated trades, who annually elect their own deacons and office-bearers, and four of these deacons are admitted into the council to represent the trades for the year. It unites with Haddington, North

Berwick, Lauder, and Dunbar, in sending a member to Parliament. The revenues of the borough amount at present to L. 573 per annum, being chiefly derived from the rent of the mills. It enjoys one-third of the customs of St James' Fair, in the vicinity of Kelso, at which its magistrates preside; a reward gained in ancient times by the valour of the inhabitants. The town is charmingly situated in the romantic valley of the Jed, environed with sylvan banks, and embosomed in venerable orchards. The streets are wide and clean, and the houses are well built. Around the town are several beautiful villas. It contains numerous handsome shops, in which all the necessaries, and most of the luxuries, of life can be readily procured. It is celebrated for the production of excellent bread, which is exported in great quantities to the north of England, as well as to the surrounding villages of the county. It is entitled to hold two markets every week, on Tuesday and Saturday. The Tuesday's market is well attended, when grain is sold by *samples* to a considerable extent. There are two banks in Jedburgh, branches of the British Linen Company, and of the National Bank. The population residing within the boundaries fixed by the Reform Bill amounted, in 1831, to 3709.

Villages.—The villages are Bonjedward, Ulston, and Lanton. The last contains 220 inhabitants.

Means of Communication.—There is one post-office, and the length of turnpike roads in the parish is 18 miles. There are daily coaches to Edinburgh and Newcastle, and there is a coach twice a-week to Hawick and Kelso. There are at present five carriers, who travel every week betwixt Jedburgh and Edinburgh, and one of them twice a-week. Three travel betwixt Newcastle and Jedburgh, and two betwixt it and Berwick.

There are ten stone bridges across the Jed; nine of which are in this parish, and eight within the space of four miles.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is conveniently situated for the inhabitants of the lower part of the parish; but its distance being four miles from the nearest, and ten from the remotest boundaries of the upper district, the aged and infirm, and, during the inclemency of winter, even the robust who reside in that quarter, are prevented from attending public worship. The distance from any other church is also great. The church consists of the western half of the nave of the Abbey, fitted up for modern worship. It affords accommodation only for about 900 persons, thus excluding a great majority of the inhabitants; and, what is more to be regretted, a considerable number who would willingly join the Established church. The manse was built in 1806. The

arable glebe consists of seven acres, worth L. 5 per acre, and the grass glebe lets for L. 13, 13s. per annum. The stipend is 19 chalders, meal and barley. The average number of communicants at the Established church is 677. Of late they have been rapidly increasing.

The Dissenters, though a numerous class, do not here, as in some places, consist of a variety of separate sects, but present only two denominations, the Relief and the United Secession. They possess three places of worship, and their ecclesiastical state is as follows :

| | Relief. | 1st cong. of Seceders. | 2d cong. of do. |
|------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of seats let, - | 1000 | 1133 | 330 |
| communicants, - | 950 | 1550 | 300 |
| Amount of stipend, - | L. 180 | L. 200 | L. 80 * |

Besides the amount of stipend stated, the ministers of the Secession have each an excellent dwelling-house and garden. The taxes of the minister of the first congregation are paid, and the minister of the second congregation is allowed L. 22, 10s. per annum, for sacramental and travelling expenses. The stipends are derived from the seat rents.

Divine service, both at the Established church and at the meeting-houses, is much better attended than it was some years ago ; but still it is to be regretted, that a great number, especially among the higher and the lower ranks, either forsake the assembling of themselves altogether, or attend to that duty with great irregularity.

Religious Societies.—There are two religious societies, one for educational purposes, and another for the diffusion of religious knowledge in general. The probable average amount of their yearly collections is L. 40.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is 14, of which three are parochial, and one is endowed by the Marquis of Lothian. The total number of scholars is 950, being about one-fifth of the population ; but of these 87 attend night schools, and 63 female schools. The grammar-school of Jedburgh had attained considerable eminence, even so early as the commencement of the seventeenth century. The heritors, and especially the magistrates, as appears from the records of the borough, have always been attentive to its interests, and scrupulous in the choice of its rectors, and their care has been amply rewarded by the character which it has long possessed and still maintains. In the year 1804, the grammar-school and the English school of the borough were united, and their union has been found advantageous. The total number attending the school at present is 170 ;—of these 45 are taught

* The Dissenters come not merely from this parish, but from nine or ten surrounding parishes. The difference between the sitters and communicants in the first congregation of Seceders is remarkable ; the numbers were given by the seat-letter and minister.

Latin and Greek. All of a certain standing, amounting at present to 100, are taught English grammar; all of a certain standing, amounting at present to 56, are taught geography; all of a certain standing, amounting at present to 110, are taught arithmetic. There are besides classes for geometry, algebra, practical mathematics, and French.

The rector receives from the borough, L. 261, 18s. Scots, or L. 21, 6s. 8d. Sterling, for the English school, L. 12, on account of which he is bound to keep an assistant, and from the heritors, L. 8, 6s. 8d. amounting in all, to L. 42, 3s. 4d. The average amount of school fees is L. 170. Candlemas offerings amount to betwixt L. 40 and L. 50. The parochial schoolmasters at Rink and Lanton receive 100 merks each. No increase of the salaries of the teachers took place in 1831, in consequence of a difference of opinion as to the sources from which the rector's salary is derived. The teachers have the legal accommodations. The rector has an extensive establishment for boarders. The general expense of education per annum is, for classical scholars, L. 2, and for English, 10s. The general average is L. 1.

Literature.—There are several excellent public libraries in Jedburgh. The "Company's Library" is an extensive and valuable collection of books, though the more recent additions to it bespeak a decline of taste. There are two smaller libraries, containing judicious selections, and one circulating library. By the aid of a liberal donation, and of a few subscriptions, itinerating libraries were lately established in the parish. Five divisions have been procured, consisting of fifty volumes each, which are placed at different stations in the town and in the country. There is a reading society among the higher classes, for the purchase of new publications, which, after being perused, are sold, and the product, together with annual subscriptions, is appropriated to the purchase of others. There are libraries connected with the congregation and Sabbath evening schools of the first congregation of Seceders, and with the Sabbath evening schools of the second congregation and of the Relief. There are two public reading-rooms in Jedburgh.

Charitable Institutions.—A dispensary was established in Jedburgh chiefly by donations from the family of Lothian, in the year 1807. It has since been supported by annual contributions. In 1822, the late Marquis of Lothian, at his own expense, erected a commodious house with baths and other accommodations. Patients are received from the parishes of Jedburgh, Ancrum, Bedrule, Southdean, Hobkirk, Minto, Oxnam, and Crailing. The funds have hitherto been found sufficient. The number of patients upon

the books averages at 215 annually. Several members of a family, however, receive medicine and attendance on the same letter of recommendation.

There are two widows' schemes, and three friendly societies. The general impression respecting them seems to be, that they are productive of little advantage.

Savings Bank.—The savings bank for the district of Jedburgh, consisting of the above-mentioned parishes, was established in 1815, chiefly by the exertions of Mr Rutherford of Edgerston. An auxiliary fund for defraying the expense of management was raised by subscription. In the first year, the number of depositors was 123, and the sum deposited, L. 1440, and up to July 1832, the number of depositors has increased to 400, and the sum deposited to L. 6290, three-fourths of the depositors being females. The institution has proved of signal advantage to the working classes, and is in a most flourishing condition.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid in the country part of the parish is 82. From Whitsunday 1831, to the same period 1832, the number is stated at 92, and the sum required for their maintenance is L. 466 per annum, allowing to each individual L. 5, 1s. 3d. The poor of the borough are maintained distinct from those in the country. The average number is 80, and the sum allotted to their maintenance, is L. 350, 15s. 8d. allowing to each L. 4, 7s. 8d. In the year 1741, the annual sum was L. 148, 14s. 10d. and in 1801, L. 130. The former was a period of great scarcity. Of the 82 paupers at present on the roll in Jedburgh, 27 are above seventy years of age.

The annual amount of collections at the church is about L. 40. The town of Jedburgh holds upon bond to the session, a sum arising from the accumulation of various legacies, and chiefly of the Lady Yester, who was a daughter of Ker of Fernihirst, which produces interest to the amount of L. 23 per annum. Some of this, according to the will of the donors, is appropriated to the education of poor children, some to the relief of the poor in the town, and some to the poor of the parish generally. But the poor are chiefly maintained by assessments, which were first levied in 1741, when voluntary contributions were found inadequate to their support. The heritors meet at the terms of Candlemas, Whitsunday, Lammass, and Martinmas, and having ascertained the number of the poor, assess themselves for their maintenance during the ensuing quarter, in a sum proportioned to the valued rent of each. The persons whose names are on the roll are obliged to subscribe a bond, making over all their effects to the heritors, in order to

prevent the concealment of property, and the abuse of public charity. The poor of the borough are provided for in a similar way. Assessors are appointed in different parts of the town, who meet before Whitsunday, and having examined the number and circumstances of the poor, fix the assessment for the next quarter. The sum requisite for the other three quarters is fixed by the magistrates. The sum to be paid by each individual is proportioned not merely to his ostensible property, but to the supposed profits of his trade and other apparent advantages. Both in the town and in the country, an interim supply is given in case of diseases or temporary distress. The distribution of parochial charity has undoubtedly been productive of injurious effects, diminishing the spirit of independence, and repressing the feelings of natural affection and gratitude. The assessments last year for the country poor amounted to L. 462, 9s. ; for the town poor to L. 430 ; in all, L. 992, 9s.

Prisons.—The following is a statement of the number of persons confined in the gaol and bridewell, during the year 1831, and of the offences for which they were confined.

| <i>Gaol.</i> | | <i>Bridewell,</i> | |
|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|-----|
| Forgery, | 1 | Vagrants, | 97 |
| Assault, | 4 | Riot and assault, | 15 |
| Theft, | 9 | Theft, | 20 |
| Contravening act of Parliament, | 9 | Breach of Excise laws, | 3 |
| Breach of service, | 1 | Breach of peace, | 2 |
| Drunkenness and riot, | 4 | Harbouring vagrants, | 1 |
| Assault and rape, | 2 | Snaring hares, | 1 |
| Exposing a child, | 1 | Falsehood and wilful imposition. | 2 |
| Murder, | 1 | | |
| Horse-stealing, | 1 | | |
| Swindling, | 3 | | |
| Breach of peace, | 2 | | |
| Total, | 38 | Total, | 141 |

The gaol and bridewell are both well secured, being surrounded with high walls surmounted by *chevaux de frise*. The prisoners are divided into classes. Those convicted are kept separate from those confined previous to trial, males from females, and young offenders from old, and to each class a particular division of the gaol is appropriated. There are spacious courts, which afford the means of obtaining air and exercise, and proper attention is paid to the diet, cleanliness, and health of the prisoners. There is not, indeed, a more comfortable place of confinement in Scotland. The gaol and bridewell are superintended by a gaoler and a turnkey, under the inspection of the sheriff and of the magistrates of the borough.

Fairs.—The royal charters of the town of Jedburgh entitle it to hold four annual fairs, the first on the first Tuesday after Whitsunday; the second, or Lady-day, on the second Tuesday of Au-

gust (O. S.); the third, or Rood-fair, on the 25th of September, or the first Tuesday after, if the 25th is Saturday, Sunday, or Monday; and the fourth, or St Leonard's, on the first Tuesday of November (O. S.). These fairs are for horses and cattle. There are hiring markets for servants at Whitsunday and Martinmas. In the year 1828, monthly markets were established for sheep and cattle at the request of the farmers' club. To encourage the design, the magistrates dispensed with the exaction of custom, and the markets have succeeded beyond expectation. They are held on the third Saturday of every month, commencing with January and ending with May. There is besides in this parish a great fair for sheep, which is held at Rink, about seven miles from Jedburgh, on July 12, and October 15. This fair is attended by a great concourse of farmers, and dealers in wool, both from Scotland and England.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are sixteen inns in Jedburgh, and forty-seven alehouses, and in the country part of the parish three alehouses; but the road trustees having resolved to grant a licence to toll-keepers, there will be in the country an increase of the number of alehouses, and it is to be feared of dissipation.

Fuel.—The fuel chiefly used is coal, which is procured from the north of England at the expense of from 8½d. to 10d. per cwt. Coals were lately found at Whitelee, about twelve miles distant from Jedburgh, but only in sufficient quantities for supplying the lime-kilns.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the period when the last Statistical Account was written, the state of the parish has been much improved,—various kinds of manufactures have been introduced which were then unknown in this district,—farms which were entirely pastoral now bear luxuriant crops,—the fields have been neatly enclosed with hedges,—waste ground has been planted—the style of dwelling-houses, both in the town and in the country, is now vastly superior,—the means of communication have been greatly enlarged,—the population has been nearly doubled,—and all classes seem to enjoy a large share of the comforts of civilized society.

The direct line from London to Edinburgh passes through this parish, and, as the commercial relations of Scotland render rapidity of communication every day more desirable, it is to be hoped that those local and private interests, which have hitherto opposed the establishment of this as the line of the London mail, will soon yield to the exigencies and advantage of the public.

October 1834.

PARISH OF LILLIESLEAF.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. DAVID BAXTER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE origin of the name of the parish is unknown. According to Chalmers (Caledonia, Vol. ii.) it is a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon word “*clif*,” (*littus vel ripa*) which signifies a haugh or bank. The name appears to have been differently written at different times. Thus in 1116, Lillescliva and Lillesclive; in 1186, Lillesclif.—Chart. Glasgow; in 1696, Liliesleafe; in 1748, Lilies-leafe; in 1750, Lilliesleafe; in 1768, Lilliesleaf.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is in length about five and three-fourths, and in breadth, two and one-half English miles,—comprehending upwards of 7000 acres English measure. Its form is quite irregular. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Selkirk and Bowden; on the west by those of Ashkirk and Wilton; on the south and west, by that of Minto, where the three last parishes, and that of Lilliesleaf meet nearly at a point; and on the east by the parish of Ancrum. The river Ale, after running upwards of a mile in the parish, may be regarded as the natural boundary, for about two miles farther in its eastern course, towards the Tiviot, into which it falls.

Topographical Appearances.—There are several elongated eminences, which generally run from east to west, a considerable distance, in the form of ridges; on one of which the only village in the parish is situated. The declivities on the sides of these ridgy eminences are fertile and well cultivated. Again, there are rich valleys, and gently sloping banks, interspersed with thriving plantations and hedge-rows, which present in their combination a most agreeable aspect to the traveller. All this variety of ornament has been owing to the good taste of the proprietors.

Soil, Climate, &c.—The soils are loam, gravel, and clay, resting upon a whinstone tilly bottom; and the climate is good in the east of the parish, but somewhat colder in the west.

About forty years ago, ague was prevalent in the village,—probably owing to the 'effluvia of a considerable morass and pool, or rather loch, which stood on the low-lying mossy ground to the south, and in part also to the stagnant water that collected upon bad roads. Upon the draining of that loch, accordingly, this distemper in a great degree disappeared. It may be noticed, that the morass here alluded to was formerly the resort of sea-gulls or mews, in such vast numbers, that they are said to have fertilized a portion of an adjoining park still called Pick Maw Hill. The eggs of these fowls were then much sought after by the villagers.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—This parish seems to have had its full share in the predatory warfare of the borders, from which it is distant at the nearest point about twelve miles. Of this, the number of fortalices, forts, or towers, which had been erected, bear ample evidence. Various individuals of great age, who died within the last seventeen years, stated that, in their recollection, fourteen of these towers or forts existed, the far greater part of which were situated in the village. But the largest tower or fort was at the eastern extremity, and seems to have been the strongest and the principal defence of the place. It was situated on the highest part of the ridge upon which the village stands, and, from its being two stories in height, must have commanded a very extensive view. Its defence would also be assisted by the large pool and morass on the south, by the river Ale, and the steep ascent on the north,—while the lairds of Riddell and their retainers would furnish support on the west. Of this largest tower, the only remains about twenty-six years ago, consisted of a part of one side, which was of great thickness and strength, and of stones, which shewed that its form had rather been an oblong than a perfect square. It might have easily contained 100 men within its walls. There was also a fortalice or tower at Chapel, about a mile eastward, which was taken down about six years ago, situated in a convenient station for watching and warding, and furnished with loop-holes for guns, arrows, or missiles;—which narrowed to the inside, and gradually widened outwards.* The other towers in the village seem to have been peels (the common houses of the inhabitants in these times) which were towers of a small size, the remains of two of which still exist. This peculiar construction of houses, in the form of towers, seems to have

* There is a tradition that this tower was inhabited about eighty years ago by a witch, at whose death there happened a dreadful storm.

been dictated by necessity to the wealthy and to the poor, for when "the English advanced from Berwick to Jedburgh, in September 1521, with 10,000 men, there were six strong towers within the town, which continued their defence after the walls were surmounted. These were the residences of persons of rank, walled round, and capable of strong resistance."*

Conventicles.—During the persecutions in the reign of Charles II., when ministers and their people were prohibited by law, the one from preaching, and the other from hearing, the word of God, the moors in Lilliesleaf parish, from their retired situation, were frequently the resort of numerous conventicles; and for this offence, numbers in this parish appear to have been punished with death, imprisonment, or banishment.†

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, Mark Sprot, Esq. of Riddell, and William Currie, Esq. of Linthill. The parochial registers were regularly kept so far back as 1648; but having been allowed to get wet, apparently from lying in a damp situation, they are now partly illegible from decay. They appear to contain nothing of public interest.

Family of Riddell.—"The family of Riddell have been very long in possession of the barony called Riddell, or Ryedale, part

* Tales of a Grandfather, by Sir Walter Scott.

† In 1670, "His Majesty, understanding that divers disaffected persons have been so maliciously wicked and desperate as to convocate his Majesty's subjects to open meetings in the fields, and considering that these meetings are the rendezvous of rebellion, and tend in a high degree to the disturbance of the public peace, doth therefore statute and declare, that whosoever, without license and authority, shall preach, expound scripture, or pray at any of these meetings in the field, or in any house where there be more persons than the house contains, so as some of them be without doors, or who shall convocate any number of people to these meetings, shall be punished with death and confiscation of goods." Severe penalties are then denounced against the persons attending such conventicles; rewards are offered to informers; and to stimulate the activity of the magistrates, the heavy fines exacted upon conviction are awarded to them.—Cook's History of the Church of Scotland, Vol. iii. p. 326.

"In 1678, William Turnbull, brother to Walter Turnbull, in Bewlie, appeared before the council for being present at house and field conventicles, and, refusing to depone upon the circumstances of them, is banished to the plantations."—Wodrow, Vol. i. p. 525.

"In 1679, many ministers were put to trouble for conventicles, several were imprisoned, among whom Mr Archibald Riddel, brother to the laird of Riddel."—Wodrow, Vol. ii. p. 124.

Mr Riddel was eminently distinguished for piety and devotion to the service of God, by preaching in these troublous times, to the people of various conventicles, in different places, as well as Mr Blackader. "Some time before the communion at east Nisbet, Mr Blackader kept a very great conventicle at Lilsly (Lilliesleaf) moor in Forestshire. They had knowledge that the sheriff and some of the Lifeguards were ranging Lilsly moors, on the fore part of the day, upon which the meeting shifted their ground within Selkirkshire, thinking themselves safe, being out of his bounds," whither they were followed by the sheriff and his soldiers, whose ardour, however, was cooled by the firm deportment of the multitude, their fidelity and care of the minister, and the courage of the sheriff's sister, who was present, and had been an attentive hearer of the word preached.

of which still bears the latter name. Tradition carries their antiquity to a point extremely remote, and is in some degree sanctioned by the discovery of two stone coffins; one containing an earthen pot filled with ashes and arms, bearing a legible date, A. D. 727, the other dated 936, and filled with the bones of a man of gigantic size. These coffins were discovered in the foundations of what was, but has long ceased to be, the chapel of Riddell, and, as it was argued with plausibility that they contained the remains of some ancestors of the family, they were deposited in the modern place of sepulture, comparatively so termed, though built in 1110.—Lay of the Last Minstrel, Note 20, by Sir W. Scott, Bart.*

The aforesaid estates and lands of Riddell, &c. are now the property of Mark Sprot, Esq. to whom they were sold about 1823.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The population of Lilliesleaf parish according to Dr Webster's return in 1755, | 521 |
| was | - |
| In 1793 by Mr Campbell's Statistical Account, | 630 |
| June 1801 by Parliamentary return, | 673 |
| 1811 by do. | 755 |
| 1821 by do. | 779 |
| 1831 by do. males 376, females 405, | 781 |
| In 1819-20 the population was 847, viz. | - |
| In the country, 463, and in the village, 384, = | 847 |

Upon the death of Sir John B. Riddell, Bart. of Riddell, in April 1819, who farmed the greatest part of his estate, the lands were immediately laid out in grass. Such a rapid change compelled those who had been employed in cultivating his extensive domains to seek a livelihood elsewhere, and hence the immediate declension of the population in the next succeeding year was 68. These lands have almost wholly continued in grass ever since. Several families and individuals have emigrated to British America and the United States, at various periods during the last ten years.

Under fifteen years, the number of persons is 279; from fifteen to thirty, country part, 112, village, 73 = 185; from thirty to

* Sir Walter adds, that "the following curious and authentic documents warrant most conclusively the epithet of 'Ancient Riddell.' 1st, A charter of David I. to Walter Rydale, sheriff of Roxburgh, confirming all the estates of Lillies-clive, &c. of which his father, Gervasius de Rydale, died possessed. 2d, A bull of Pope Adrian IV. confirming the will of Walter de Ridale, Knight, in favour of his brother Anschitil de Ridale, dated 8th April 1155. 3d, A bull of Pope Alexander III. confirming the said will of Walter de Ridale, bequeathing to his brother Anschitil the lands of Lilliesclive, Whittunes, &c. and ratifying the bargains betwixt Anschitil and Huctredus concerning the church of Lilliesclive, in consequence of the mediation of Malcolm II., and confirmed by a charter from that monarch. This bull is dated 17th June 1160. 4th, A bull of the same Pope, confirming the will of Sir Anschitil de Ridale, in favour of his son Walter, conveying the said lands of Lilliesclive, and others, dated 10th March 1120. It is remarkable that Lilliesclive, otherwise Rydale or Riddell, and the Whittunes, have descended through a long train of ancestors without ever passing into a collateral line, to the person of Sir John Buchanan Riddell, the lineal descendant and representative of Sir Anschitil."

fifty, country part, 92, village, 86, = 178; from fifty to seventy, 111; above seventy, * 28; total in parish, 781.

There are 8 unmarried men above fifty years, and 10 widowers ditto; and there are 18 unmarried women above forty-five years; and 5 resident heritors having above L. 50 of annual rent. Seven are non-resident, besides about a dozen feuars, most of whom are resident.

In December 1831, the population of the village was 380, and of the country, 425. It may be proper to observe, that the population of this parish is about 30 generally in the winter half-year, above what it is in the summer half. The chief cause of this difference seems to arise from the temptation of service in summer, when the wages to a female-servant are from L. 4 to L. 5, 10s. and the temptation to come home in winter, when the wages are from L. 1, 5s. to L. 2. A number of boys also get service in summer, who cannot obtain employment during winter. †

Character of the People.—They are in general industrious in their calling, and respectable in their station. They are also regular in their attendance on the institutions of religion, and possess a good knowledge of its doctrines and precepts. There are many who have treasured up these in their minds as principles for meditation and rules of conduct.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of English acres now in tillage is about 2600; uncultivated and chiefly mossy ground, 50 acres. There are about 2000 acres of high-lying land formerly cultivated, but now in grass for pasture, which should not be again brought into tillage, unless the prices of grain rise higher than they have been for many years past. There might be 1000 acres on the estate of Riddell added to the cultivated land in the parish with great advantage. This land having been let in grass parks during many years, there can be no doubt that capital would yield a profitable return by being laid out in its cultivation. The quantity in undivided common does not exceed two or three acres. The plantations, &c. of forest trees amount to about 600 acres, consisting of larch and Scotch firs,

* A few of the last class above eighty.

† It may be noticed, that the great number of beggars who traverse Scotland having no fixed residence, have not been reckoned in the population returns. In this parish, for a great number of years past, about fifteen, upon an average, have daily passed through it. A similar number may be found in many other parishes. They form no less than a fifty-second part of the population of these places, and are therefore a considerable omission in the Government returns.

with a proportion of oak, ash, and elm, and are in general well-managed. There is scarcely any natural wood.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of the arable farms is not easily ascertained, varying as it does from 10s. to L. 1, 15s. per acre, English. Leases of farms, granted four or five years ago, being too high, must fall at their expiry, unless the prices of agricultural produce shall have advanced. Village acres, of which there are many, have lately let at L. 3 per acre. About twenty years ago they were let at L. 5 per acre. The average price of grazing a cow upon arable land during the season, L. 5. A full-grown ox do., L. 4; and a full-grown sheep for one year 12s. But upon the 2000 acres of high-lying land, one-half of the above rates is enough.

Prices of Provisions.—Butcher-meat is about 1½d. per lb. dearer than in Edinburgh; good fowls from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. each; cheese about 6d. per lb. of 16 oz.; butter, 8d. to 10d. per lb. ditto.

Improvements.—The greatest improvement in the parish would be to lime the lands kept in tillage; but the distance being twenty-eight or thirty miles from the lime-kiln, and the expense so great, not less than L. 5 per English acre, it is doubtful whether the laying on of lime would defray to the farmer the expense of his outlay. On dry land, perhaps, it might repay; but not on clay soils. Several farmers have for some years past applied lime to their lands, and one has extended it, though in a defective quantity, over his whole farm, consisting of about 170 or 180 acres: and, from the superior crops consequent thereon, it will certainly amply repay the expense of outlay.

Produce.—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish cannot be accurately ascertained. The following statement may, however, afford an approximation. Taking all the arable land presently in tillage at 2600 acres, and the four-course shift for the data, the amount may be thus stated:

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|
| 1300 English acres in corn crop, of all the different kinds, at L. 5 per acre, | L. 6500 | 0 | 0 |
| 150 do. hay, at L. 3 per do. | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| 500 do. in pasture grass, at L. 1 per do. | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| 250 do. in turnip, at L. 3 per do. | 750 | 0 | 0 |
| 860 do. in clean fallow. | | | |
| 1000 do. in Riddell estate, good land let in grass parks, say L. 1 per do. | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 do. high-lying pasture land at 5s. per do. | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 do. potatoes at L. 5 per do. | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinnings of plantations, | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| Produce of orchards and gardens, | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| | L. 10080 | 0 | 0 |

A saw-mill driven by water has been erected several years ago

on the Riddell estate, for cutting and preparing the thinnings of wood for agricultural and other purposes, suited to the demands of the country.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The nearest market-towns are Selkirk and St Boswell's, from each of which the parish is distant six English miles. A daily penny-post has been established in this parish from Selkirk, under the authority and subject to the regulations of the General Post-Office, Edinburgh: it is doing well, and promises to be of great benefit to the parish and neighbourhood. This is indeed a great acquisition when compared with the dilatory and uncertain receipt and dispatch of letters, &c. hitherto experienced.

The roads are generally good in all directions, though there are none of them turnpike, the whole having been made in a very proper manner from the statute-labour funds, at the rate of 40s. Sterling on every L. 100 Scotch of valuation, paid equally by proprietors and tenants, and they are kept in good repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parochial church, now in good repair, and capable of containing the parishioners, is as convenient as possible for the great body of the people. It was built in 1771, upon a deep loamy soil, lower than the contiguous grounds, and, from its injudicious situation, is consequently damp. The old church must have been of ancient erection, though the precise period cannot be traced from known records: on a stone of the eastern aisle contiguous to its ancient situation, there is the date 1110. No seat rents are demanded,—admission being free, after heritors and tenants are accommodated. L. 100 Sterling was mortified about a century ago to the kirk-session for behoof of the poor, the interest of which is regularly applied to its original purpose by direction of the heritors.

The manse was built very superficially in 1821 upon the lowest of eight estimates, and within the space of a year considerable repairs were found necessary, and executed to prevent the admission of rain-water through the walls, they being almost destitute of lime. The glebe consists of about eleven acres, and was lately valued by two intelligent farmers at L. 17 per annum.

The present stipend, decreed in 1820, consists of 16 chalders, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. A final decret of locality has been extracted, and gives as follows: L. 45, 1s. 7½d. money, including communion elements; 1 firloft, 2 pecks, 2½ lip-

pies, wheat; 112 bolls, 3 stones, $3\frac{1}{8}$ lib. meal; 81 quarters, 6 bushels, 1 peck, and 2 quarts, barley, all paid by the fiars prices.

A dissenting chapel was erected during the incumbency of the late Mr Stalker in this parish, about twenty-six years ago : it belongs to the United Associate Synod persuasion, the minister of which is understood to be paid, along with the interest of debt upon the chapel, &c. from the seat rents and collections.

| | |
|---|-----|
| The number of persons of all ages in Lilliesleaf parish appears to be in 1834, as follows, viz. attending the Established church, about | 429 |
| Do. Chapel in Lilliesleaf of United Associate persuasion from Lilliesleaf parish, of all ages, about | 249 |
| Do. Three chapels at Hawick and Selkirk, of said persuasion, and chapel of Associate Original Seceders at Midholm, parish of Bowden, | 95 |
| Population of Lilliesleaf parish, 1834, | 773 |

The attendants on the Established church at Lilliesleaf have continued to increase for a number of years past ; and the attendants on the United Associate Chapel, as above, in Lilliesleaf, have been proportionally decreasing for several years past.

Education.—There are two schools in this parish, viz. the parochial and a private. The salary attached to the former is L. 25, 13s. 4d. besides an addition, on the teacher's proving diligent, of school-fees for a number of the poorest scholars : which addition, on an average of some years, has exceeded L. 5 annually; also L. 1, 11s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for deficiency of garden-ground. He is also clerk to the heritors, for which he receives L. 4 annually, &c. His school fees have been stated to me at L. 17 a-year. He possesses all the legal accommodations. The heritors lately built a most excellent school-room. The branches generally taught at this school are English reading and grammar ; writing, arithmetic, Latin, and French. The teacher is well qualified, and has, of late, adopted the improved system of education, which affords ground to expect a great increase to his school.

The private school is supported by a teaching-room, free of rent : and the school-fees are about one-fourth higher than those of the parochial, amounting to about L. 26 annually. In this school, viz. the private, are taught English reading, writing, and arithmetic ; the latter only tolerably well, the former two in the most vulgar manner. The teacher has no education superior to a common labourer, and refuses to apply for farther information. There are none in this parish unacquainted with reading or writing.

Library.—A library was established about sixteen years ago,

consisting of books presented as donations, or purchased from the fees of admission and subscriptions.

Friendly Societies.—There were a few aged individuals (now deceased) within the last seventeen years, who derived aid from a friendly society. But no person here is now known to join any society of this sort, each looking to the parochial funds. Saving banks are in similar disrepute.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of individuals or families who receive parochial aid is 20, each, according to circumstances, receiving from L. 3 to L. 10, 8s. per annum, paid quarterly. In addition to which there are seven others who receive temporary or occasional supplies. The average annual amount obtained for their relief is, of church collections, L. 7, 6s. 4d.; interest of mortified money, L. 4; from mortcloth, 13s.; and of assessments on the heritors, L. 126, 10s. 4d. Total, L. 138, 9s. 8d.

Assessments were introduced about sixty-eight years ago. The heritors meet quarterly by legal intimation to assess themselves according to their rents. Assessments have undoubtedly been of great benefit when rightly applied; but they have also done much evil, wherever there has been any want of discrimination betwixt cases of real need, and clamorous applications from persons of idle inclinations. There are numbers who reckon it a degradation, and are most unwilling, to become a burden on the poor's funds, until obliged by necessity; but there are others who, from inclination to idleness, and other irregularities, forsake the honourable path of industry, and exert every species of ingenuity to be put upon the poor's roll; and, when once admitted to an interim supply, have recourse to mean and degrading shifts to be continued. Assessments for the poor being high in this parish compared to its population, and drawn almost entirely from those in wealthier circumstances, there is in consequence a diminution of church collections.

Inns.—There are four licensed houses in the village where spirits and ale are sold; one-half of this number would be amply sufficient. They are of an injurious influence upon the lower orders.

Fuel.—Coal, a little peat of inferior quality, brushwood, and thinnings of plantations, constitute the fuel of this parish; the first of which, being about thirty miles distant from the Lothian and English coal-mines, is very high in price,—higher, indeed, than in any of the neighbouring parishes, which are nearer either to the

one or the other of the mines. Peat is nearly exhausted, and confined in use to some feuars and a few tenants. Brushwood is dear as fuel; and, though very expensive, coal is by far the cheaper and more comfortable. It was remarked in the former Statistical Account of this parish, that "in the article of firing, the inhabitants must be at a greater expense than any parish of the south of Scotland."

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account in 1793, are, *1st*, That the whole roads are now good and well made. *2d*, That a large extent of land has been planted with forest trees for utility and ornament. About forty years ago there were not 100 acres planted, now there are about 600; the late Sir John Riddell, Bart. having planted from 300 to 400 acres about thirty or forty years ago. *3d*, That the modern system of husbandry has now been fully introduced,—all the dry land, when in fallow, being sown down with turnip in drills, well-dunged and properly cleaned,—the clean fallow properly wrought and kept free of weeds, and dung laid thereon, and a break regularly laid down with grass seeds. Farm-steadings have also mostly all been rebuilt with stone and lime, covered with slate, and made perfectly convenient for the farm; and thrashing-machines have been introduced upon almost every farm.

All classes of the people in this parish can now find employment if they are at all willing to work.

October 1834.

PARISH OF BOWDEN.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. THOMAS JOLLIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE first mention of this parish occurs in the foundation charter of Selkirk, before the year 1124, when it was granted to the monks by David I., under the name of Bothenden. In charters granted in the years 1159 and 1232, the former by Malcolm IV., and the latter by Walter, Bishop of Glasgow, and both confirming David's grant, we find the parish named Botheldene and Boulden. It is plausibly conjectured that the first of these names was derived from a St Bothen or Bodwin, and that it came in time to be abbreviated to Boulden, which was again corrupted to Bowden.

Extent and Boundaries.—The greatest length of the parish is 6 miles, and breadth $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. At an average it may be about four by three miles in extent, and contains twelve square miles. It is bounded on the north by Melrose parish; on the east, mostly by St Boswells, partly also by Ancrum; on the south, by Lilliesleaf; on the west by Selkirk; and on the north-west by Galashiels.

Topographical Appearances.—It is of an irregular oblong figure. One of the Eildon Hills and one-half of another are in this parish. From one broad and elevated base their three conical tops arise, which, from their situation in a flat country, more than from their height, are seen at a great distance. Their elevation above the level of the sea, as stated by the late Sir John Leslie, is 1364 feet; while that of the parish is, at an average, 450 feet. The general surface of the parish may be well described as consisting of a series of parallel ridges, lying from west to east, and from the parallel elevations from which the Eildon Hills arise, lessening in height towards the south,—with intermediate valleys, more or less wide, each having its own rill, which runs eastward to the Tweed, about two miles distant from the middle of the parish.

Towards the south-west, where the above-mentioned parallel ridges are not so strongly marked, one or two small burns find their way into Ale Water, which forms the southern boundary of the parish. It may be remarked, that these ridges come shooting away from a high flat moorland in the eastern extremity of Selkirkshire, which from this part of Roxburghshire bounds the view to the west.

Climate.—It may be remarked generally, that the prevailing winds are from the S. W., as may be seen by their effects upon trees in exposed places; that our most severe snow storms are from the N. E.; that our steadiest and driest weather is from the N. W.; and that, about the end of April and beginning of May, cold and occasionally frosty winds prevail from the east, which are injurious to vegetation, and are ready to bring disease on fruit-trees. Our climate is high and rather cold. It appears, from the notice of climate in the former Statistical Account of this parish, that it has improved considerably since 1794. This may be owing to the draining of land and mosses, to the general use of lime for land, to the raising of plantations of firs and other trees, as well as to other less obvious causes. In connection with this improvement of climate we may remark, that consumptions and fevers, which thirty or forty years ago were very prevalent in this parish, are now comparatively little known.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rock on the south side of the parish runs from east to west, inclining to the south-west and north-east. It is commonly found in thin layers or strata, with occasional seams of dent between the strata. The rock dips to the south, at an angle of from 40 to 60 degrees. It consists generally of whinstone. On Bowden moor it is clay porphyry, and is largely made use of for road metal, for which it is very excellent. The only object of note, however, in the parish of a geological description is the Eildon Hills. They stand upon a level plain of considerable extent, a little to the south of Melrose. They are, at the base, about seven miles in compass. The rocks of which they consist are felspar, and felspar porphyry. In the south-west point of these hills a quarry has been cut, in which the rock is found to consist of regular pentagonal prisms, about fifteen inches in diameter. The pillars are extremely elegant and beautiful, and sharper in their angles than most basaltic columns, and of a pale flesh-colour. The height of the pillars, as yet laid bare, is about twenty feet; but, when farther cleared, they will probably be found to reach the schistose formation on which the mountains repose.

Botany.—The plants not frequently found elsewhere, and common in the vicinity of Bowden, are the following:—*Osmunda crispa*, small flowering stone-fern, on the eastern side of the north-east peak; *Lycopodium clavatum*, common wolf's-claw; and *Lycopodium alpinum*, cypress wolf's-claw, on the south-west hill among the dwarfish heath; *Sanguisorba officinalis*, Burnet; and *Peucedanum Silaus*, yellow sulphur-wort, all around the base of the hills; *Pri-mula veris*, cowslip, is not found growing naturally in the course of the Tweed, or its western tributaries, until the junction of Bowden Burn; but after this it is plentiful, and likewise on every dry bank and rocky knoll to the southward of the village of Bowden, and for several miles towards the Tiviot; *Plantago media* is likewise a rare plant to the westward and northward. It is not found in Selkirkshire, but plentifully on the southern base of the Eildon Hills, and on every bank around the village.

Plants rare in the vicinity. *Hypericum quadrangulum*, St Peter's wort, in the rill from a spring on the north side of Bowden moor; *Geranium lucidum*, lately grew on the walls of the old castle of Holydean; *Salix repens*, on a hedge-bank to the north of the farmhouse of Prieston.

The highest peak of the Eildons is covered so closely for about two acres with *Vaccinium myrtillus* (by no means plentiful elsewhere in the neighbourhood) as almost to exclude any other plant, and also *Digitalis purpurea* and *alba*, and henbane.

Trees of different kinds, particularly oak, ash, and fir, have been found in the mosses while digging for peat and marl. These are sometimes of large dimensions, and are found at a considerable depth in the moss; but, in so far as is known, none of them have been in a petrified state.

Soil, &c.—The soil of the parish is of a varied character. The north, and part of the west side, are chiefly a stiff clay, from seven to twelve inches deep, upon a damp, hard, *tilly* subsoil. The southern part of the parish is generally lighter, particularly on the ridges, which run from west to east, where the cultivated soil, though thin, is dry and friable, producing good turnips and other crops. Betwixt these ridges there is a good loamy soil.

There are considerable quantities of moss and shell marl in the parish; the marl is under the moss. Below the marl is a layer of fine blue clay, and under the clay there is generally whinstone rock.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—Holydean, a farm in this parish, was, in ancient

times, the occasional residence of the Roxburghe family. A plan of this place was sketched a few years ago, and presented to His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe. In that plan, the site of the buildings is delineated, as far as that could be correctly ascertained, by inspecting the foundations, and the portions of the walls still standing, and by information received from old individuals resident near the place. The plan is believed to be correct in its proportions. The house and lands of Holydean were included in the grant made by David I. to the monks of Selkirk, and were confirmed to them, by renewed charters, after their translation to Kelso. At this place they had a grange or farm for feeding cows and sheep, and raising corn. In the sixteenth century, the lands of Holydean were bestowed by royal grant upon Sir Walter Kerr of Cessford, ancestor of the ducal house of Roxburghe, as a reward for border services. Different opinions are entertained as to the year in which this took place. In Douglas's *Scottish Peerage*, and Chalmers' *Calèdonia*, it is said to have been in 1569, while by others we are informed that it was in 1530; and we consider it a very strong circumstance in favour of the latter opinion, that there is still to be seen at the place a stone, of which we shall by-and-by make more particular mention, having on it, together with the arms of the house of Ker, the date 1530. "Holydean," says the former Account, "was, not long ago, a strong fortification of its kind. The court-yard, containing about three-fourths of an acre, was surrounded by a strong stone and lime wall, four feet thick, and sixteen feet high, with slanting holes between five free-stones, about thirty feet from each other, from which an arrow or a musket could have been pointed in different directions. Upon an arched gateway in the front, there was a strong iron gate. Within the court stood two strong towers, the one of three, the other of five stories, consisting of eight or ten lodgeable rooms, besides porters' lodges, servants' hall, vaulted cellars, bake-houses, &c." The walls of these towers were four feet thick, and their roofs and floors were of the strongest oak. They were both perfectly entire, and in excellent condition, at no distant date. About seventy-four years ago, the commissioner to John, the third Duke of Roxburghe, his Grace being then in his minority and abroad, ordered the buildings to be mostly pulled down, for the sake of getting the freestones in them to build a large farm-house and appurtenances. One of the large vaults still remains in good repair, and is used by the tenant for sheltering carts and other agricultural implements. There is also

a portion of the court wall standing on the south side, but it is now in a ruinous state, and appears to have decayed much since 1795, when, according to the former Account, there were about 160 feet of it perfectly entire. However, the fragment that remains is sufficient to give a clear idea of the former strength and magnificence of the place, and to make us regret deeply the demolition of a building that was so stately and ornamental, and also so venerable for its antiquity. A stone, to which we have already alluded, preserved from the ruins, and now a lintel to the door of the old farm-house at Holydean, has in the middle a unicorn's head and three stars, with this inscription on either side; "Feer God. Flee from sin. Mak for the lyfe everlasting to the end. Dem Isobel Ker, 1530."

A few yards to the north-east of the portion of the wall already mentioned, is the ancient well belonging to the house. It is still in good order, and affords to the family, now living at Holydean, an abundant supply of excellent water. This well was built in the eastern wall of the court, and was about ten feet from the door of the eastern tower.

About 140 yards north-west from the principal house, on the top of a precipice overhanging a deep dell or dean, called Ringan's Dean, there was a chapel or place of worship, with a burying-ground, as clearly appears, not only from traditionary report, but also from the foundations of the building, which have been traced, and from grave-stones, handles of coffins, and human bones, which have been dug up in that place; and hence has probably arisen the name Holydean or Haliidean.

The greatest curiosity of its kind in this quarter, and perhaps of a similar nature anywhere else, is a stone dike or wall built without lime or cement of any kind, which encloses about 500 acres of the farm of Holydean, and has stood upwards of 300 years, and is still a tolerably good fence. It had, at first, been six or seven feet high, with cope stones. In an old tack or lease this enclosure is called "the Great Deer Park of Haliidean."

Beneath the east end of the parish church is a vault, the burying-place of the noble family of Roxburghe. It contains twenty-one coffins ranged along the sides of the apartment. In that number are included the coffins of the five previous dukes.

The remains of a military road, with circular stations or camps, at the distance of from two to three miles from each other, supposed to be Roman, can be traced across the centre of the parish, in a

line from south-east to north-west. In some places all vestiges of it are destroyed by the plough, but in other places it can be easily traced in the form of a large ditch, about twenty feet wide, and in a few spots, of two ditches of that width, and about fifty feet distant from each other. The camps or stations are all on eminences in view of each other; and warlike instruments of various descriptions have been dug up by people ploughing and ditching around them, as well as in the adjacent mosses.

There is an old cross in the centre of the village of Bowden, but the date of its erection is unknown. There were also within the last twenty years, several peels or square towers in the village, containing in the under part an apartment for cattle, and, in the upper part, one or two small apartments for the accommodation of the family, and to which they got access by an outer stone stair. The remains of one or two of these peels are still to be seen.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe; John Seton Karr, Esq. of Kippilaw; the Misses Henderson of Eildon Hall; Captain Riddel Carre of Cavers; Mark Sprott, Esq. of Riddel; Colonel Sibbald of Whiterig; William Currie, Esq. of Linthill; Nicol Mill, Esq. of Faldon Side; Dr Scott of Eastfield; Peter Pennycook, Esq. of Newhall; Andrew Buckum, Esq. of Temple Hall; Andrew Arnot, Esq. of Milridge Hall; and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Besides these, there are about fifty small proprietors.

Parochial Registers.—A parochial register of births and marriages, begun in the year 1697, is kept by the schoolmaster as session-clerk; but, we regret to say, is not so complete as could be wished, owing to the carelessness of parents in getting the births of their children entered.

Buildings.—Except the handsome and commodious mansion-houses of Cavers Carre, Linthill, and Kippilaw, there are no modern buildings in the parish worthy of special notice, unless, indeed, we speak of several farm-houses, which have been lately built in a superior style, and a remarkably neat and comfortable school-room, erected last season in the village of Bowden upon an approved plan, which reflects the highest credit on the liberality of the heritors.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1755 was 672; in 1794 it was 860; and at present it is 1010. The increase of population may be ascribed, partly to the improvements in agriculture, and partly

to the greater number of labourers that have of late been employed on the roads. Though not closely connected with this branch of the subject, we may here remark, that the roads afford a most beneficial source of employment to the labourer. Having a long time to fulfil his contract, he has recourse to them when all other jobs fail, and in frosty weather, when he can work at nothing else.

| | |
|---|-----|
| The population residing in villages is | 478 |
| in the country, | 532 |
| The average of births for the last seven years is | 15 |
| deaths,* | 10 |
| marriages, | 4 |
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age is | 312 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 238 |
| 30 and 50, | 300 |
| 50 and 70, | 90 |
| above 70, | 20 |
| The number of proprietors of land, of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is | 13 |
| unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, is | 10 |
| unmarried women and widows, upwards of 45 years of age, is | 32 |
| The average number of children in each family is | 3 |

The people are not remarkable for strength, size, complexion, or any other personal qualities.

The number of insane persons is 1 ; fatuous, 5 ; blind, 1 ; deaf and dumb, 2.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | 196 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 94 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | 32 |

Habits, Character, &c. of the People.—The habits of the people are fast improving in regard to cleanliness ; and their style and manner of dress are modest, neat, and substantial.

The people enjoy, in a great degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and, upon the whole, may be said to be contented with their situation and circumstances. They are, in general, well informed upon religious and other subjects, and deserve to be highly commended for their honesty, sobriety, and industry, and a strict regard to moral rectitude in their ordinary demeanour. Neither smuggling nor pawnbroking are known in the parish, and poachers are very seldom heard of.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of acres in the parish, which are either under regular rotation of arable culture, or are occasionally broken up from grass for that purpose, extends to about 3460. The lands which have not been broken up and cultivated within the last sixty years, and are not likely to be again

* No register of deaths is kept ; but it is believed the average given is near the truth. The register of births and marriages being incomplete, the above remark must, in part, be applied to the averages taken from it.

broken up to any great extent, may be stated at about 2531 acres. Taking into consideration the coldness of the climate and other local impediments, it is a matter of doubt, whether the extent of land kept under arable culture could be increased with advantage. Two or three hundred acres may, however, be advantageously taken out of grass, cleaned and cultivated, and then laid down again in an improved state for permanent pasture; and a considerable quantity more might be improved by draining and top-dressing without breaking up.

The feuars of Bowden and Midlem have thirty acres of undivided common grass land, the pasturage of which is let annually for a small sum by the feuars, while all the inhabitants of the villages have the privilege of cutting turfs, peats, and divots on it. The commons are partly overrun with whins, and being surrounded by arable fields, present rather an unseemly appearance.

Wood.—Around the residences of several of the proprietors, there are some fine old trees, and in the Duke of Roxburghe's ancient park at Holydean, there is a natural wood about forty acres in extent, chiefly old birch trees. Around the church-yard of Bowden there are several remarkably large sycamore and ash trees; the latter, indeed, are considered the oldest and largest of the kind in this district. There are also in the parish a considerable number of plantations of more recent growth, chiefly planted within the last forty years. The most extensive and conspicuous of these is on the southern side of the Eildon Hills. The others consist principally of sheltering and ornamental belts of various sizes and shapes. Taken altogether, the land under wood may extend to somewhat above 260 acres. Although much has been done of late in the way of planting, there is still great room for improvement. This remark is particularly applicable to the west and north-west sides of the parish, where there is, comparatively, but little wood, and where the greatest advantage, both as to ornament and shelter, would be obtained by planting on a large scale. In other parts of the parish, where shelter is not so much required, various pieces of waste land, which cannot be profitably cultivated, and several of which are to be found in patches within cultivated fields, might be beneficially planted. It may further be observed, that when shelter is the principal object, plantations are frequently made too narrow to be effective. By increasing their width, additional shelter would not only be obtained, but the growth

of the trees promoted, and success secured in exposed situations where trees are liable to die prematurely.

The trees planted are oak, ash, elm, birch, beech, sycamore, Scotch, larch, spruce and silver firs: and alder and willows are planted in marshy places. Oak, elm, and sycamore thrive well, even upon cold, clay land, and in exposed situations in this parish, and it is to be regretted a larger proportion of these varieties has not been planted. Shelter has been the principal object in stripe or belt plantings, and too large a proportion of the fir tribe has generally been set in them. It has been observed that the spruce firs, which had been set in those plantings, thrive well while young, but they soon began to dwindle, and do not now appear likely to arrive at maturity, while the few silver firs, which have been planted, continue to thrive well, and are likely to become fine timber. In cases where a fair proportion of deciduous forest trees have been planted, particularly of oak, elm, and sycamore, they have, as before observed, thriven well even upon cold land and in exposed situations. Where the fir trees have been removed gradually and in due time, the hardwood timber trees are likely to become ultimately not only a source of great profit to the proprietors, but also beneficial to the occupiers, by giving permanent shelter in place of the fir trees, which soon lose their side branches and cease to give effective shelter. The hardwood trees will likewise become more ornamental than the fir. Injury has in a few instances been done to deciduous forest trees by pruning their side branches close off from their stems. In the opinion of men of experience, timber trees thrive best, either when they have not been pruned in any way, or when being pruned, the branches have been shortened at a distance from the stems, and above there are secondary branches springing from the larger side branches.

Rent, &c.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is about 17s. 6d. per acre; the charge for summering a cow is L. 3, 5s.; a three year old, L. 2, 15s.; a two year old, L. 1, 17s.; a one year old, L. 1, 10s.; for wintering a cow on straw, with a little hay or turnip in spring, L. 2, 5s.; a three year old, on straw without turnip L. 1, 10s.; a two year old, L. 1, 5s.; a one year old, L. 1.

The charge for keeping a ewe of the Leicester breed on improved land is L. 1 per annum, and for a young sheep of the same kind 12s. The above rates for sheep include turnip in spring. The charge for keeping a Cheviot ewe on outfield or inferior land

is 6s. 6d. per annum, and for a young sheep of the same breed 5s., without turnip in both cases.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of principal ploughmen are from L. 9 to L. 10, 10s. per annum, with board; of maid-servants, for the summer half-year, from L. 4 to L. 5, and for the winter half-year from L. 1, 12s. to L. 2, with board; married men-servants, or hinds, get 100 stones oatmeal; 15 bushels of barley; 6 bushels of pease; from L. 2 to L. 3 of money; a cow kept; 1200 yards of drill, lineal measure, for potatoes; a cap of lint sown; and a house and garden, for which they furnish a shearer, who receives meat from the employer, but no wages. This is the usual practice; but sometimes they have a cow's milk allowed them, or a cow of their own kept, potatoes as before described, 52 stones of oatmeal, a free house, and from L. 9 to L. 10 of money. In both cases the servant gets 48 cwt. of coals, for which he pays the charge at the coal-hill, and the master brings them home to him, paying every other charge.

A rood of mason work, furnishing all materials, costs from L. 5 to L. 6, 10s. according to circumstances; for labour only, from L. 1, 14s. to L. 2, 4s. The rood contains 36 square yards, from 18 inches to 2 feet thick. Full-grown fir wood costs from 9d. to 1s. 2d. per cubic foot; hardwood from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; wood work of a plough 17s.; of a cart L. 2, 4s.; of a pair of harrows 14s.; of a pair of cart wheels L. 2, 3s.; paling of two bars made from full-grown fir wood, with four stakes to the rood, of six yards, costs 1s. 6d. per rood, and, when made from young wood, 1s. per rood. The above prices are for the wood when sawn and ready to be removed from the plantation. The charge for sawing such timber is 4d. per rood for full-grown, and 3d. for young wood, and for putting it up and furnishing nails, 2d. per rood. Blacksmiths, furnishing iron, receive for shoeing a pair of horses, and keeping every thing connected with them, including carts, plough, and harrows, in repair, L. 3 per annum.

Breeds of Stock.—The breeds of sheep reared in the parish are the Leicester and Cheviot, and sometimes a cross between them. The rearing of sheep has met with considerable attention, and is now in a fair state of improvement. The cross breed is rather on the increase. The only breed of cattle reared by tenant farmers is the short-horned. The small feuars and married farm-servants have frequently a mixed breed of milk cows, such as a cross between the Ayrshire and short-horned, or the Galloway and

Highland breeds. A considerable number of small Highland cattle are annually wintered in the parish, and fattened the succeeding summer, and sold to the butchers.

Husbandry.—The land in tillage is usually managed either in the four or five-shift rotation of cropping. In the four-shift rotation, the order is as follows: 1st, oats after grass; 2d, fallow, or green crop of turnip or potatoes; 3d, wheat or other white crop; and, 4th, grass for hay or pasture. In the five-shift rotation, the same order as above is observed, but with this difference,—that the grass is either allowed to lie two years before breaking up, and then one crop only of corn is taken before fallow, or a pea crop is introduced after the first crop of oats, to be succeeded by a fallow; but, in the latter case, the land should be in a good state of cultivation.

Drains are cut from two to four or more feet deep, according to the nature of the soil and the situation, and are filled with broken stones to within twelve inches of the surface, the undermost being always carefully laid in by the hand, and set on edge, or in the form of a conduit at bottom; the rest are thrown in promiscuously above them, and are broken and levelled on the top; a slight covering of straw or turf is then put over them, and the earth is put above all. The expense of a drain three feet deep, exclusive of providing stones and straw, is about 9d. per rood on strong land, and from 7d. to 8d. on softer soils. The drains are made of no more breadth than to allow a man to work them properly, and, at the bottom, to allow a shovel spade to run along. The hill land is mostly surface drained in the customary manner.

The duration of leases is generally nineteen years, and there cannot be a doubt that the present improved state of agriculture in this, as in other parts of Scotland, is to be attributed to the security and the length of leases, more than to all other circumstances.

The old and incommodious farm buildings are fast disappearing, and giving place to others much more substantial and convenient. This is more particularly the case upon those farms which belong to His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, comprising fully half of the parish.

Recent Improvements.—Great improvements have, within the last twelve or fifteen years, been made on the roads in this parish. During that period, the old roads, both public and private, have undergone substantial repairs; and new roads have been opened up in various directions. They extend to about 18½ miles. One of them, measuring about 3½ miles, is turnpike. It was completed

about ten years ago. It forms a part of the line of road which runs from Kelso by St Boswell's Green to Selkirk, and affords an easy and excellent communication betwixt these places, through what were formerly the most unfrequented parts of this parish. All the others are parish roads, and are upheld solely by the conversion of statute labour. The assessment, for this purpose, was, for many years, at the rate of L. 3, and is now L. 2 in the hundred pounds Scots; but as there is an act of Parliament to empower the heritors to make the principal line turnpike, the parish may be relieved from a great part of this burden. There are no toll-bars in the parish.

Improvements Recommended.—Among the improvements in agriculture, which might still be made to a large extent, and with every prospect of the most advantageous result, we may mention the under-draining of land. This, however, would be best effected by a mutual understanding between landlord and tenant. When left to the tenant alone, it absorbs a larger portion of his capital at the commencement of his lease, than can well be spared from other improvements, and, that being the case, he is either obliged to leave it, in a great measure, undone, or to do it superficially. On the other hand, as it must be allowed, that under-draining is the first improvement on wet-bottomed land, and is of permanent advantage to property, it is surely the landlord's interest to give liberal assistance.*

Marl abounds in the parish, and was about thirty years ago in general use; but, in consequence of its having been considered too cold a substance for our climate and soil, and also of its having a tendency to retard the ripening process of the crops, and to produce a coarse quality of grain, it has been almost laid aside for the last twenty years. Indeed, so decided is the preference that is now given to lime over marl, that the former, notwithstanding the great difficulty of procuring it, is used by some tenants who have the latter in their immediate neighbourhood.†

* It may be here suggested, that that assistance might be given with the greatest effect, by the landlord's being at the expense of cutting and opening all drains, taking care at the same time, *to see that they were done in a proper manner*; and as stones are readily found all over the parish, the tenant, on his part, should agree to furnish them, and complete all other parts of the work. As connected with this subject, it may be noticed, that proprietors and tenants occasionally labour under difficulties for want of a law obliging neighbouring proprietors to join in draining operations; as it sometimes happens that the only outlet to swamps is through neighbouring lands, and the proprietors of such lands, from various causes, do not readily concur in such measures, although they would often prove highly beneficial to all parties.

† This fact leads us to express our anxious desire, that the rail-road which was

Bone-dust manure has been applied extensively for the last two years to land in preparation for a turnip crop, and with success fully equal to expectation. In some cases, it is sown by a machine, but chiefly by the hand, along the hollow of the drills, previous to their being laid together for the reception of the seed. This manure is generally applied at the rate of two quarters per acre. It costs L. 1, 1s. per quarter. It is found particularly convenient where dung is in short supply, especially on high lands at a distance from the farm-yard; and, by means of it, land in tillage can, in many cases, be kept in good order, and under a more profitable rotation, than in any other way.

Obstacles to Improvement.—A very great obstacle to improvement is the distance from lime,—which is twenty-four miles from the nearest kilns. The prime cost and carriage to the land amounts to from 12s. to 13s. 6d. per cart-load of two bolls, Lothian measure. Eight such cart-loads are considered a fair allowance per acre; but, owing to its great expense, it is not often applied to that extent. Lime is, however, now generally in use in this quarter; and, from the good effects produced by it, even when used in a smaller proportion, it is much to be regretted that there are not greater facilities in procuring it. It has been suggested, that, in cases where landlords are so fortunate as to secure judicious and enterprising tenants, it would be to their mutual benefit were the landlords to pay the cost price at the kiln of what lime the tenants may lay upon their farms in a given time. Such arrangement would encourage and enable tenants to pay higher rents for their farms, and would also put it in their power to apply a larger portion of their capital to other beneficial purposes. *

some time ago proposed to be carried betwixt Dalkeith and Galashiels, and for which purpose the ground along Gala Water was surveyed, may soon be again taken up in a more decided manner, and carried into effect without delay. It is the opinion of competent judges, that such an undertaking would make a good return to the subscribers; and there cannot be a doubt, that it would prove of incalculable advantage to an extensive and interesting farming district, by affording great facility in the conveyance of corn, wool, coals, lime, bone-dust, timber, slates, and various articles of merchandise; while to the important and improving manufactories at Galashiels, Selkirk, Jedburgh, Hawick, &c., such conveyance would give new health and vigour, by accelerating the transit of raw materials and manufactured goods.

* To this plan it is objected, that it holds out an inducement to men without capital to offer higher rents than can be drawn from the land, and, consequently, to drive the well-provided and more deserving tenant, who is willing to give a fair value for land, entirely out of the market. The first-mentioned class, it is said, having little to lose, have not much dread of an adverse turn of circumstances; while, on the other hand, they are in hopes of deriving benefit from a favourable change of times, from the kindness of the landlord in making reductions of rent, or from over-cropping the land thus injudiciously put into their hands. This objection is worthy of serious consideration; and we know not of any way by which the evil expressed by it can be avoided or lessened, except by the landlords using all possible care in the selection of their tenants, and giving due encouragement to men of character and capital.

Among the obstacles to improvement in agriculture, the practice common with proprietors, of protracting the reletting of their lands until within a short time of the outgoing tenants term of removal, deserves special notice. This practice, as may be easily conceived, often proves most embarrassing and injurious to the tenant. Owing to it, he is frequently kept, until within a few weeks of the close of his lease, in ignorance of a future home for himself and family, and of a place to which he may remove his stocking; and he may feel himself compelled, at last, to enter upon a new engagement, on far more disadvantageous terms than he would have submitted to under different circumstances. The practice is also very impolitic on the part of the landlord; for the tenant, as a matter of course, looks only to the end of his contract, and makes arrangements to secure some return for his industry and outlay; but, in doing so, he cannot be expected to guard against the deterioration of the soil, in the same manner he would have done if he had a longer interest in the possession secured to him. The consequence is, the lands are often seriously injured for years to come, which result might be prevented by the landlord's ascertaining the value of the property in due time, and letting it on a new lease at least twelve months before the expiration of the previous contract. Should the old tenant continue, he would not only prevent deterioration, but would immediately commence improvements on the farm, and, in cases of new tenants, both parties would feel it to be their interest to come to such mutual understanding as to prevent future inconvenience, as well as positive loss to all concerned.

The last obstacle to improvement in agriculture we shall notice, is the frequent tampering with the laws which regulate the duty upon imported grain, wool, and other produce. Tenants complain, that, in place of being protected as they ought to be, their property is trifled with, and that, while things continue so, they cannot, with safety, undertake such improvements upon their farms as might be beneficial to themselves, to the landlord, and to the community.

Enclosures, &c.—The greater part of the parish is enclosed. The fences are either stone walls or white thorn hedges, and are kept in good order, under the disadvantage of a great part of them being upheld entirely at the expense of the tenants. Fences so maintained are seldom kept in such a good state as when the expense is borne mutually by landlord and tenant.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|--|----------|----|---|
| Grain of all kinds, 6517 bolls 2 bushels at L. 1, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per boll, | L. 6949 | 10 | 0 |
| Turnip and potatoes, 340 acres, | 1272 | 0 | 0 |
| Clover and meadow hay, 370 do. | 925 | 0 | 0 |
| Pastures, 3592 do. | 2115 | 10 | 0 |
| Gardens and orchards, 29 do. | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Flax, 1 do. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Plantation thinnings, | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | L. 11492 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages, &c.—There are two villages in the parish. These are Bowden and Midlem or Midholm; but we have no market-town or post-office. Melrose, a market and post-town, is distant about three miles from the village of Bowden; and Selkirk, also a market and post-town, about three and a-half miles from the village of Midlem.

Means of Communication.—Through these towns, daily coaches run betwixt Edinburgh and Carlisle by the west or Selkirk road, and betwixt Edinburgh and Newcastle by the east or Melrose road, which passes within a mile and a-half of the village of Bowden. There are weekly markets for grain at Melrose on Saturdays, and at Selkirk on Wednesdays. At the latter place, the demand is generally greatest, owing to the district around being of a pastoral description. There are also weekly markets for grain, on a more extensive scale, at Jedburgh, Hawick, and Kelso, which places are respectively about twelve, thirteen, and fourteen miles distant from the parish; but all these markets have this disadvantage, that a regular demand cannot be depended upon, the money is not payable on delivery, and the prices are generally as much below those of Dalkeith on the west, and Berwick on the east, as is equal to the expense of carriage to those distant markets.

A carrier who resides in the village of Midlem goes and returns from Edinburgh weekly. He, as well as another carrier from Lilliesleaf, passes through the village of Bowden. Besides these, there is also another, residing in the village of Bowden, who goes weekly to Kelso, Selkirk, and Melrose. The rate of carriage is 2s. per cwt. from Edinburgh.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated on the eastern extremity of the parish, but, being in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Bowden, and not more than three miles from Midlem, it cannot be said to be inconvenient to the greater part of the population. Its distance from the western extremity of the

parish is at most five miles. The time of the erection of the church is unknown; but the oldest date on the building is 1666. At present the church is in a good state of repair. It affords accommodation to 380 sitters. There are no rents paid for church seating, and, although the congregation is usually accommodated in the portions allocated to large proprietors, yet it is obvious that the want of legal seating is an evil, which here, as well as in most other parishes, often occasions much inconvenience to the villagers and those having low valuations.

The manse was formerly much decayed, but it was rebuilt on its old site in the year 1794, and it is now in a good state of repair. The extent of the glebe is from thirteen to fourteen acres, and its value about L. 1, 5s. per acre. The amount of the stipend is fifteen chalders, half barley and half oatmeal, Linlithgow measure.

There is a dissenting chapel in the village of Midlem belonging to the Associate Synod of Original Seceders. The minister's stipend was formerly paid from seat rents, but as there has been no settled pastor in the place for several years, it is impossible to ascertain what these might now amount to.

The number of families attending the Established church is 113, and of individuals of all ages about 450. The number of families attending the Dissenting chapel is 74. Divine service at the Established church is well attended; it was so formerly in the dissenting meeting-house at Midlem, but, owing to there being no regular pastor, and to other local causes, that meeting-house is not so well attended now. The average number of communicants at the Established church is 260.

The average yearly amount of ordinary church collections is L. 15; and of extraordinary L. 10. These last are chiefly made for defraying expenses incurred at Sabbath evening schools in the parish.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, both on the parochial establishment. The branches taught in these are English, writing, and arithmetic, practical mathematics, French, Latin, Greek, geography, &c. The salary of the Bowden, or principal schoolmaster, is L. 30; and of the Midlem, L. 21. The average number of scholars attending the former is 80; and the latter 45. The annual expense of a child's education is from 8s. to 16s.; and of a few pupils in the higher branches, it is about L. 1, 4s. At both schools the children of paupers are taught gratis, and this of course diminishes the amount of school-fees considerably. The pro-

bable amount of school fees paid to both schoolmasters is L.45 per annum. The teachers have the legal accommodations. There are no parts of the parish so distant from the schools as to prevent attendance, and the people have been always so much alive to the benefits of education, that there are none in the parish above six years of age who cannot read, and very few above that age who cannot write also. No doubt can be entertained that great benefits have resulted from the facilities of education in this parish; but as these have been so long enjoyed, and so duly appreciated by the people, no recent change flowing from the above circumstances can be traced in their morals.

Literature.—There is a parochial library in the village of Bowden; and also a library connected with the Sabbath schools.

Poor.—Except the ordinary church collections, and L. 900 Scots, mortified by a member of the Roxburgh family for pious purposes, there is no other provision for the poor but the legal assessment, which is at the rate, on an average of ten years, of 3s. 4d. per L. 100 Scots. The yearly amount of the assessments is about L. 123. The average number of poor on the roll for the same period is 17, and the weekly allowance of each 2s. 4½d. Generally speaking, the poor of this parish are slow in seeking parochial relief; yet, when once upon the roll, it is not observed that they consider the circumstance degrading. Instances to the contrary, highly honourable to individuals, are now and then met with; but these, it must be confessed, are of rare occurrence.

Alehouses.—There are three alehouses in the parish; one of these is in the village of Bowden, and the other two in Midlem. The community would suffer no loss by their number being lessened.

Fuel.—The fuel used in this parish consists of coal brought from Mid-Lothian, at the rate of from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. per cwt. on delivery,—also of peat, and the thinnings of plantations. The former costs at Midlem 2s. 3d., and at Bowden 4s. per single horse cart-load, including carriage; and the latter from 3s. 6d. to 7s. per cart-load, including carriage, according to the size of the wood, and its distance from the villages.

October 1834.

PARISH OF MELROSE.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. GEORGE THOMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN the old orthography the name is written Mull or Mailross, *Mull* or *Moel* signifying in Gaelic *bare*, and *ross* a promontory. The name is applicable to the peninsula formed by the Tweed, which is still called Old Melrose, and which, although in its present state one of the most delightful residences imaginable, might well be termed the bare promontory, when divested of its present advantages. The religious Culdees who settled in this spot from Iona, so early as the beginning of the seventh century, may have given the name to this place, if it had not been bestowed earlier by the Celtic population. When the religious community of Old Melrose had fallen into decay, and a great monastery was founded in a more favourable situation farther up the river, the name of Melrose, interesting from the sacred associations connected with it, was given to the more recent religious establishment. Subsequently it was transferred to the adjoining village, and to the parish in which it stands. This etymology is deducible from history of the most authentic nature. *

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Melrose is one of the most extensive in the county. Its length, from the top of the middlemost of the Eildon Hills to Upper Blainslie, is 10 miles. Its breadth, from the banks of the Gala to those of the Leader, is upon an average $4\frac{1}{2}$. Its superficial extent is 45 square miles. Its boundaries are, south, the parishes of St Boswell and Bowden; north, the parish of Lauder; east, the parishes of Mertoun and Earls-toun, from which it is separated by the Tweed and Leader; and west, those of Galashiels and Stow, from which it is separated by the Gala. Its figure is an irregular oblong, rounded at its northern extremity, where it is widest, and forming an excrescence at the

* In the armorial bearings of Melrose, preserved in the west end of the abbey, and in the front of the town-house, there are the figures of a mallet (Scotch, a *mell*,) and a rose. These emblems are evidently a pun upon the name of the place, and seem to prove the antiquity of the change in its orthography, from Mullross to Melrose.

north-west angle of Roxburghshire, where that county separates Selkirkshire from Berwickshire, and marches with Mid-Lothian.

Topographical Appearances.—The principal high-grounds are the Eildon Hills on the south border of the parish, at the foot of which the village of Melrose is beautifully situated. Rising with a triple summit, and an abrupt irregular acclivity on the right bank of the Tweed, they are finely contrasted with the smooth surface, and uniform height of the Gattonside Hills, which, with their continuation on the Langlee and Ladhope heights, form a ridge extending from the Leader to the Gala. To the north of this long ridge, the parish, for about two-thirds of its extent, and comprehending all the hilly country between these rivers, maintains a considerable elevation above the level of the sea, and of the Melrose valley. It is from the north that the Eildon Hills are seen to most advantage, where the two principal summits only being visible, their proportions appear most beautiful, and their elevation above the level of the country, magnificent: and in winter, when the sun rises immediately behind them, one of the most splendid of mountain phenomena may be seen in perfection in the neighbourhood of Melrose,—the black opaque mass of the hills cutting against the bright gleaming sky. On the south, their elevation appears less considerable, but the three hills are seen in a line,—their bare summits contrasting with the richness of the surrounding country. The view from the top of the Eildons is crowded with interesting objects. To the north are seen the windings of the Tweed through the valley of Melrose, its banks studded with villas and villages, the south front of the abbey distinctly and beautifully appearing amid imbosoming wood, and the long mountain ridge which bounds the valley on the north, flanked, on the one hand, by the Meiglot, and, on the other hand, by the Coldigknow,—beyond which the view is prolonged in pastoral wildness to the distant heights of Lammermoor, Soltra, and Yarrow braes. To the south, the whole level expanse of richly cultivated, but thinly wooded Tiviotdale, is spread out before the eye, and bounding the view appears the long blue line of the Cheviots, losing itself in distance toward the west, and having at its eastern extremity three small conical eminences, one of which is *Flodden Hill*.

Geology.—In the Eildons, clinkstone appears in many places; and in some places, where uncovered by vegetable mould, they seem to consist of huge heaps of small thin oblongular splinters without any cohesion, and free from sand or any earthy mixture. On the

side of one of them, but within the parish of Bowden, a beautiful columnar porphyry has lately been disclosed. West from Melrose is the Quarry Hill, a huge mass of a kind of conglomerate rock, having much clay imbedded in it, on which the frost has great influence. Being durable and easily wrought, it is much used in building. Over all the northern and western part of the parish greywacke prevails, dipping toward the north-east. Abbotsford is built of this kind of stone, and it is found in the bed of the Tweed, throughout the whole course of the Allan, and in all the detached rocks which appear at intervals in the hilly country. To the south-east of the Eildons, the Dryburgh sandstone begins. It is first disposed in thin layers of a coarse red colour; and these are found to overlay other sandstone strata of greater breadth, and of a finer colour.

The soil of the parish, as described in the last Statistical Account, is various. In the south it is generally a strong clay, excellently adapted for wheat. The banks of the Tweed are a fine light dry soil, fit for all kinds of grain. In the northern parts of the parish the soil is of three kinds, *1st*, a light earth mixed with sand upon a gravelly bottom; *2dly*, a strong clay upon a till full of springs, and very wet; *3dly*, moss. The moss is frequently found to overlay marl of the finest quality.

Hydrography.—There are four considerable streams in this parish. The Tweed, and three tributaries which it receives from the north; the Gala, the Allan, and the Leader. The Gala at the western, and the Leader at the eastern, extremity of the parish, are five miles distant where they join the Tweed. Two miles below the Gala, the Allan issues from a fine opening in the Langlee heights, dividing the Long mountain ridge which forms the southern boundary of the hilly country. It is a beautiful little stream, nearly concealed in many places by overhanging woods, and its course, five miles in length, is all within the parish. The Tweed enters the parish at Gala foot, having formed its boundary with the Galashiels parish for two miles higher up. After receiving the Leader, it becomes its boundary with the parish of Mertoun, as far as Dryburgh.

The valley of Melrose must have been a noble lake at some remote period, the Tweed entering it by a narrow inlet, across which Melrose Bridge is thrown, and leaving it by a narrow outlet at Tweedwood, before the formation of which, the whole space inclosed by the Eildon and Gattonside Hills must have been a con-

tinued sheet of water. A substratum of water sand, dense or penetrable by the spade, pure or gravelly, is always met with in digging a few feet below the surface. At a comparatively recent period, less than two centuries ago, the course of the Tweed seems to have been on the south side of the valley. A fine rich flat, now on the south side of the river, is called Gattonside-haugh, and its feudal tenures shew that it once actually formed a part of the Gattonside lands, which are on the north side of the river. In these tenures a right is retained to an ancient church-way, severed by the Tweed, along which the inhabitants used to pass of old to the Catholic service in the abbey. Near the village of Newstead, the old channel of the river is beautifully marked; and what was formerly a deep pool and perilous eddy, across which Claverhouse is said to have been ferried, is now a fine meadow, but still continues to be called the "wheel." The change in the course of the Tweed seems to have been aided by human industry, as a strong embankment is necessary to prevent it from resuming its old domain.

Meteorology.—The most remarkable feature in the meteorology of this part of the country is its fogs, which frequently occur in beautifully picturesque forms. Sometimes they are seen lying in independent fleeces upon the sides of the uplands,—sometimes creeping up the channel of the Tweed, and slowly dividing into the diverging valleys. Viewed from the south side of the Eildons, the whole surface of Tiviotdale appears one continued sheet of fog, above which is seen the top of Ruberslaw, and the long stalk of the Waterloo pillar,—while a clear sky is overhead, and a bright sun illuminating the surface of the sea.

In the valley of Melrose, sheltered as it is by the surrounding high grounds, the climate is singularly mild. The upland parts of the parish are in winter swept by tremendous northern gales, against which they have no natural shelter. But in every place, both in the high and low ground, the parish is healthy, and free from every kind of unwholesome miasma. The ague, which was formerly very prevalent, owing to the damp exhalations of undrained marsh, has entirely disappeared,—not a single instance of this malady is met with by any medical practitioner. Epidemic fevers of the typhus kind sometimes occur in the villages, but they are rare, and not very destructive. The most common distempers of this district seem to be rheumatism and consumption.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—The ancient accounts of the history of the parish are, the Chronicle of Mailross, which was kept in the monastery, in monkish Latin, and which, beginning with the year 735, ends in 1270; the first part being only an abridgement of previous history, intended to serve as an introduction to the chronicle, properly so called;—the Chartulary of Melrose, comprehending the munificent grants and benefactions, royal and private, with which the abbey was from time to time enriched;—and the accounts of various monkish historians, of whom Bede is the chief. The modern accounts are Redpath's Border History; Morton's Monastic Annals of Tiviotdale; a history of the parish of Melrose by Milne, one of its former ministers, and another by Bower, the present custodier of the abbey.*

Parochial Registers.—The only manuscript accounts of the history of the parish known to the writer are contained in the parochial registers, which begin in 1630, and are continued down to the present day, with a single break of four years between 1686–90. This interval, corresponding with the years of persecution, seems to indicate the troubles of the time, of which, however, there is no mention made. †

The number of persons who appear by the list of penitents to have incurred church censure in that age is incredible,—far exceeding the average of the present day, when the population is nearly trebled. How is this to be accounted for and reconciled

* Milne, though a man of respectable talent and research, seems to have had the foible of mistaking for Roman encampments old sheep fields, *e. g.* his two *Castra exploratorum*. What he calls a Roman encampment on the top of the Eildons, may easily have been a border fastness, to which the cattle of the neighbourhood might be driven on the approach of the enemy; for there are no distinct indications observable from which it can be inferred that it was Roman, and his Roman road across Bowden moor is proven, by a curious old charter lately discovered, to have been a boundary line between the adjoining properties of the Kelso and the Melrose monastery.

† The oldest part of these registers records very particularly the transactions of each week, giving both the preacher's name and the subject on which he spoke, with enormous weekly lists of penitents who were subjected to the presbyterian penance. The oldest part of them also contains many curious notices of the public events of the period, which are highly interesting and worthy of attention, as they serve to shew the impression which historical events of importance made upon the public mind at the time they occurred. For example, an attempt of a detachment of the army of Charles the First upon the insurgent depot at Dunse in the course of that monarch's second Scottish campaign, with the subsequent blowing up of Dunglass House, is thus noticed.—*30th August, 1640.*—"Mr William Wilkie preached, but, being interrupted at mid sermon, because of the Englishmen that came from Berwick to Dunse, thinking to carrie away our cannon, powder, and lead with them; but, blessed be God, they got the foyle and returned with shame, being beat back with a few. But upon the same night ane pityfull accident there was at Dunglass, where my Lord Haddington of worthie memorie, with many others, was betrayed with powder, so that the house was blown up, and they were smooored in the close; the lyke whereof was never heard in Scotland."

with the zeal and piety of our forefathers, unless by supposing that the age in general was greatly less enlightened and less moral than the present. It is more easy to fight and die for God, than to live a well regulated life in obedience to His law. *

Historical Notices.—The history of this parish is coëval with the first introduction of Christianity among the Saxon population of this part of the country in 640. It is related by Bede, who lived in Northumberland, and during the seventh century, that Oswald, the Saxon King of Northumberland, whose dominions comprehended the whole of the eastern part of Scotland south of the Forth, was converted to Christianity by Culdees, from Iona, whom he met with when an exile from his country, among the Picts north of the Forth; that, on being restored to his country, and eventually raised to the throne, he became anxious to Christianize his subjects, and with this view prevailed on a number of Culdees to visit his kingdom as missionaries, one of whom, named Aidan, he made bishop of Lindisfarne,—and that he built churches and planted missions at Old Melrose in this parish, and in various other places of his dominions. Old Melrose, a peninsula nearly surrounded by the Tweed, which is overhung on the farther side by its lofty precipitous banks, is strongly guarded by natural defences on every quarter except the south, where it has an easy communication with the country, and where a wall, seen by Milne, was drawn across the narrow isthmus. It is a most delightful place of residence. The limited central space of the peninsula is high raised above the encircling river, and keeps the general level of the adjoining country, the ground descending all round with a steep but smooth unbroken declivity, finely contrasting with the abruptness of the opposite banks, to a circular grassy plain of pleasing seclusion,—the scene, perhaps, of the devout meditations of St Cuthbert, and of the shivering penances of Drythelme. Uniting, therefore, the advantages of easy defence and delightful retirement, it seems to have been judiciously chosen for the residence of a religious community in a barbarous age. The religious com-

* It deserves to be mentioned as a curious trait of the manners of the period in question, that it was then common for people of the lowest rank to appear with a sword at their side when in full dress,—and it is related by an aged person, whose grandfather was present on the occasion, that Mr Wilson, who was ordained minister of this parish in 1690, on the removal of the English curate, and whose memory is still revered, began his first diet of examination, by seizing on these weapons and breaking them, maintaining, that the unnecessary appearance of them in the house of God was a profanation. The number of swords which the people still have in their possession, covered with rust, and each having “eaten of its sheath two handful,” is immense.—*Percant rubigine.*

munity of Old Melrose, at the head of which was placed one of Aidan's twelve Saxon pupils, seems to have remained unmolested for about 200 years; during which period it produced many who figured as saints in the Roman calendar, among whom occur the names of St Cuthbert and St Boswell. Of these, the former, who became Bishop of Lindisfarne, was really eminent; the latter is chiefly interesting to us from his having given his name to the neighbouring parish of St Boswells, the public worship of which continued to be carried on after the Reformation in a chapel dedicated to this saint, until the stones of its principal quadrangle were employed in the building of the present parish church, which seems to have been the general practice after the overthrow of popery; for almost all the old and unrenewed parish churches in this part of the country seem to be the identical places of worship which were used in Catholic times. And from architectural indications which they still exhibit, they appear to have consisted of a large oblong quadrangle, communicating through an ornamented archway with a smaller apartment called the Queer, which projected from one of its ends, and which was probably used, like the continental baptistry, for marriages, baptisms, petite masses, &c. when a small concourse of people would attend.* After the Reformation, the queer generally became the burial aisle of the principal proprietor, the communication with the interior being built up; or it was demolished, leaving traces of its ornamented archway; or it disappeared entirely, the church having been elongated in the direction of where it stood, in which case nothing is observable but the coarse recent addition. The queer of the demolished chapel of St Boswells remained standing within the last forty years. These excursive remarks, derived from a personal observation of many parishes, must be forgiven.

In the year 839, when the Scottish power gained a permanent ascendancy over the Saxon, and the country was wasted as far south as the Tweed, the peninsula of Old Melrose was taken by Kenneth II., and the buildings of the monastery destroyed. From this disaster it never seems to have recovered. It afterwards became the temporary residence of a small party of monks from Girwy, but it eventually dwindled down into a chapel dedicated to St Cuthbert, which had the privilege of a sanctuary; and a roadway leading to it, still called (either from Girwy or Girth, a sanc-

* The people have an old saying illustrative of, and alluding to this, "If the kirk be over big, sing mass in the queer."

tuary,) the Girthgate, may be traced over the moorlands, in which stand the ruined towers of Colmslie and Hillslop.

It appears from tradition, that, during the long interval between the decline of the Old Melrose and the rise of the New, there was ~~another~~ sacred edifice erected midway between them in a field which ~~still retains~~ the name of the Red Abbey Stead. It was probably called the Red Abbey from the colour of the stone with which it was built, which, ~~specimens that have been dug up seem~~ to identify with the narrow upper strata of the Dryburgh sandstone, which are of a coarse red colour, every way inferior to the ~~fine~~ broad sandstone strata which they overlay, and out of which was built the famous Abbey of Melrose, now in ruins. The buildings of the one abbey seems to have led to the discovery of finer materials for the building of the other; and the geology of the country thus enables us to ascertain the relative antiquity of the two edifices,—of the former of which no records whatever remain. Could we suppose that it was a rebuilding on a new site of the chapel of St Cuthbert, it would account for the name of the neighbouring village of Newstead.

Melrose Abbey.—In 1136, 500 years after the foundation, and 300 years after the destruction of the Old Melrose, the famous abbey and monastery, which is still admired in ruins hard by the present village of Melrose, is said to have been founded by David I. Becoming the residence of a community of Cistercian monks who were brought from Rievale, and whose Order was then first introduced into Scotland, it was, according to the general practice of Cistercians, dedicated to their patron saint the Virgin Mary. The site of this more recent establishment, to which, the name of Melrose, venerable from its sacred antiquity, was transferred, is three miles further west than the river peninsula on which the old and original Melrose stood, near the foot of the Eildons, and about a quarter of a mile south of the Tweed,—occupying the finest part of the lovely valley which is inclosed between the Eildon and Gattonside heights. It is stated by Milne, that the adjoining village existed before the building of the abbey, and that it had the name of Fordle; and it is worthy of remark, that the whole of the old tenements above what is still called the Bow, the south entrance gate to the monastery ground, are described in their title-deeds as belonging to the village of Little Fordle. The original name of the previously existing village, therefore, must have been Little Fordle, which seems to be a Saxon diminutive, derived, in all like-

lihood, from the passage of a small brook flowing ~~across~~ the road at the eastern entrance of the village, and contrasting ~~with the~~ neighbouring ford of larger dimensions in the Tweed.

Of the ruins of Melrose Abbey, which have been so frequently and so well described, both in poetry and prose, it is unnecessary to say much. The ground plan, according to the general Romish practice, is in the form of a rectangular cross. The nave, which lies due east and west, is in length 258 feet, and in breadth 79 feet; and at the distance of 50 feet from the eastern extremity, it is intersected at right angles by the transept, which is in length 130 feet, and in breadth 44. To the west of the transept there are two magnificent rows of pillars ranged along the north and south side of the nave, which form two passages leading into the interior, where it is most spacious, the intersection of the transept and nave. The passage on the north side is bounded by a blind wall; that on the south, which is broader and more magnificent, opens into a long series of aisles, intended, perhaps, to serve as confessionals, private chapels, baptistries, or queers, each highly ornamented, and terminated by a splendid Gothic window. Upon the north side of the building, indications are observable on the outer wall, of a large quadrangular cloister which, beginning at the transept, had extended 150 feet west, and also of a spacious arcade or piazza, with which it had been surrounded. The habitations of the monks, as is said and confirmed by architectural indications and foundations which have been dug up, were ranged along the east, west, and north walls of the cloister, completely secluded from the outer world, and concealed behind their splendid southern screen, the majestic pile of the abbey, which might have extended as far beyond the quadrangle in the west as it does in the east.

Such seems to have been the general outlines of this famous building, so far as they can be traced in its present dismantled state. The architecture is the finest Gothic, belonging evidently to an age when the art, in all its departments, and that style of building in particular, had arrived at the highest perfection. In the magnitude of its proportions, Melrose Abbey is inferior to many works of its kind,—the dimensions of York Minster being nearly double; but it has seldom been surpassed, or even equalled, in the fineness of the sculpture, the exquisite finishing of its most minute embellishments, and the majestic beauty so suitable to a sacred edifice, which appears in the whole. How came so fine a building,

it is natural to inquire, to be erected in such a site, and in an age so early and so rude as the twelfth century? David was a "sore saint to the crown," rather from his enormous grants of land than from the amount of pecuniary capital which he had it in his power to sink unproductively; and why should he have chosen to place the finest building of which the nation has ever had to boast so far from the heart of his kingdom, and so near a hostile frontier? It is also worthy of remark, that the style of the architecture is ascertained to belong to a later age than that of David; that the buildings which David did erect on this site are said to have been finished in ten years; and that there are architectural indications which distinctly show that the Abbey, the main building now existing in ruins, was unfinished when destroyed 500 years after his day. There are appearances of temporary finishing, that the work might be afterwards resumed and carried forward towards completion. The character of the monastic orders in general, and that of the Cisterrians in particular, seem to afford the best explanation of the difficulty which can be given. The Cisterrians, besides being strict in their monastic discipline, had the wisdom to inculcate industry upon their brethren as a virtue, and as a preservative from vice; on which account, they were also great patrons and promoters of learning and the fine arts. Is it not probable, then, that multitudes of the resident monks would employ themselves in what might be deemed the pious work of rearing and embellishing so sacred an edifice; that the masterly pieces of sculpture which adorn its windows, walls, pinnacles, capitals, keystones, &c. were executed by their own hands; and that the whole work, instead of being produced by a single effort of David, which would have been beyond his means and the architectural talent which he could have commanded, however ample his means had been, was the result of a long-continued effort of the religious community which he established, aided by the princely revenues with which it was endowed, the munificent benefactions it was continually receiving, and the architectural talent of the whole Romish church which would be at his command. The monastic orders are known to have been ambitious of adorning their habitations with great architectural works, which were frequently begun on a scale of magnificence vastly beyond their means, and which the labours of several generations were required to complete. The Scottish monarch, in 1136, seems to have merely founded and endowed the monastery, building suitable accommodations for its inmates, and a humbler edifice,

perhaps, for their worship. The magnificent pile of building which came in time to cover the south front of the monastic quadrangle, may justly be regarded as a subsequent addition,—as the fruit of the zeal, industry, and genius of the indefatigable Cisterians, exerted during a period of five centuries.

Antiquities.—As might have been expected in the vicinity of such an establishment, there are memorials of the Catholic times in every quarter. There is a cross in the centre of the village of Melrose, near the south entrance of the monastery, which has a quarter of an acre of land to maintain it called the “Corse Rig.” The Popish emblem on the top, however, was supplanted by the crest of the Haddington arms so early as 1604. The name of the High Cross marks the site of another, which stood near the Darnwick road, half a mile west, where the pinnacles of St Mary’s central tower first become visible. There are in the lintels, or appearing in the plaster of the walls of some of the houses, stones sculptured with the interlacing, (I. H. S. Jesus Hominum Salvator,) and other Popish devices. There are such names of places as Priors’ Wood, Cloister Close, Abbots and Monks’ Ford; and our principal springs still retain the names of Romish saints, such as St Mary’s, St William’s, St Helen’s, and St Dunstan’s. The inhabitants are such zealous Protestants, that many of them complained that they “could neither get a night’s rest nor day’s ease with the passing of the Catholic bill,” so that it may truly be said, every thing around us is Catholic, “save the spirit of man.”

The tumulus upon the side of the Eildons mentioned by Milne, and called by the people *the Bourjo*, is worthy of attention. It is evidently artificial, of great magnitude, and by tradition the site of a pagan altar. The road leading to it is called the Haxalgate, and the ravine through which it passes the Haxalgate-heugh. Compare with this the following passage from the thirteenth chapter of the third volume of the *Pirate*: “If the belief of those is true,” says the author while speaking of a Druidical circle, “who assign these singular monuments exclusively to the Druids, Minna might have seemed the Haxa or high priestess of the order.” It is at least a striking circumstance, that the name of this pagan official should be found in the way leading to a reputed pagan altar. The place is still regarded by the people with interest; and they have been in the habit of pointing out to each succeeding minister as the identical spot where their forefathers “were wont to bow the

knee to Baal, and to put their sacrifices into earthen vessels," the tradition mingling with the knowledge of a better faith.

A stone with a Latin inscription, which was lately dug up in this parish, and which is now in the possession of the family of Drygrange, seems to have formed a part of a Roman altar. In the inscription it is dedicated to the god Silvanus by Curius Domitianus of the Twentieth Legion, "pro salute sua et suorum." The Romans having never been so far north before Domitian nor after Severus, the inscription must belong to the second century. The country must have been a forest, else why the dedication to Silvanus? and unhealthy, else why the expression "pro salute sua et suorum." *

Modern Buildings.—In the vicinity of the Tweed, and within the bounds of this parish, there are about fifteen villas and considerable mansion-houses, of which Abbotsford in the west is not less famous for its present, than, in the east, Old Melrose is for its ancient glory. The materials employed in building are sandstone from Dryburgh, Belses, and Sprouston, the coarse puddingstone of the neighbouring quarry-hill, and the Greywacke, which is widely diffused over the country. There are within the parish four corn mills; of these the two principal are upon a lead said to be of monastic antiquity, which, leaving the Tweed above Melrose, returns to it below Newstead, insulating a rich flat called the Ana.

III.—POPULATION.

There are no accounts of the state of the population of this parish before the census of 1801. There are in the parochial registers some tables of births of an earlier date; but the result is so surprisingly irregular, that it affords no certain data for drawing an inference. The amount of the population was found to be

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|------|
| In 1801, | - | - | 2654 |
| 1811, | - | - | 3132 |
| 1821, | - | - | 3525 |

At the time of the census in 1831, the amount of the popu-

* The high and exposed situation of the place where the stone was discovered seems to indicate that at the time at which such a spot was chosen for a Roman military post, the surface of the country must have been very different from what it now is, when many a better station might be found not commanded from the neighbouring heights by any weapon used in ancient warfare. Was the vale of Melrose a lake in the second century, as hydrographical appearances show that it must have been before the formation of the narrow outlet at Tweedwood; or an unwholesome swampy forest, like those of the American wastes, where the Roman soldier would sink in mud to the knee whilst forcing his way through the loathsome underwood, and the ague, the once prevailing disease of the country, would subdue his strength and quench his ardour? With this hypothetical, it is curious to compare the actual state of the country, richly cultivated, healthful, and populous, covered over with villas, villages, and corn fields, the effect of human industry and time.

lation was found to have increased to 4339, of which number 2096 were males, and 2243 females. This great increase of population is to be ascribed to three causes,—agricultural improvements, and the extensive breaking up of the waste grounds which followed the great rise in the price of grain during the war; the great increase of the manufacturing population upon the Gala; and the numerous families having independent fortunes that have chosen the neighbourhood for a place of residence, attracted by the amenity of the situation. The manufactures of Galashiels have been continually upon the increase, notwithstanding the pressure of the times; and this, along with the increased amount of the resident wealth, more than counterbalances the diminution of the population by emigration, which has of late years been uncommonly great.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------|
| The number of the population who reside in towns is | - | - | 2764 |
| the country, | - | - | 1598 |
| The yearly average for the last seven years of recorded births is | - | - | 64 |
| burials, | - | - | 37 |
| marriages, | - | - | 37½ |

N. B.—Every marriage is recorded, the parties being anxious, from a regard to decorum, to pay a scrupulous attention to all observances; but in the registration of the births and deaths there is great irregularity.

The number of individuals and of families of independent fortune, at present residing in the parish, is 18. The number of proprietors of land, of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 50. The number of families is 906; and it appears that the proportion of recorded births to the recorded marriages is only 64 to 37,—giving 1½ children to each family. This is to be ascribed to the fact above stated, that every marriage is recorded, but that many of the births are not.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. The number of inhabited houses is | - | - | - | 728 |
| houses uninhabited or building is | - | - | - | 26 |
| 2. Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 250 |
| trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | - | 361 |
| 3. The number of males employed in agriculture, as farmers and farm-servants, | - | - | - | 327 |
| above the age of twenty years, is | - | - | - | 143 |
| The number of males employed in manufactories, or in manufacturing machinery, | - | - | - | 317 |
| the retail trade, or in handicraft work, | - | - | - | 67 |
| professional persons and educated men, | - | - | - | 71 |
| persons employed as labourers by the three last classes, | - | - | - | 60 |
| retired tradesmen, superannuated labourers, and males diseased in body or in mind, | - | - | - | |

Characters, Habits, &c. of the People.—The people, without being distinguished from their countrymen by any personal peculiarities, may be described as being generally a stout, muscular, well-formed race, hardy and patient of fatigue, having among them many instances of great stature and strength. In so numerous a popula-

tion, there are only 2 persons insane ; 3 fatuous ; 2 blind ; and 1 deaf and dumb.

The dialect spoken is distinguishable, although it does not differ much, from that of the west coast used by Burns. The finest specimens of it in spirit, characteristic features, and idiom, are to be found in the dialogue of those of the Waverley Novels, where the scene is laid at or near the Scottish border. There are instances in which that author admits an old word, not at present in general use ; and the reading habits of the people have insensibly led them to incorporate with their conversational style much of the classical language of the country.

The dress of the common people, from which every peculiarity has long ago disappeared, is always becoming, and in good repair ; and on particular occasions, when they appear in their " Sunday's best," it differs little from that of the upper classes. For some years past, they seem to have been rather in straitened circumstances, owing to the low rate of wages, and the scarcity of work ; but by industry, temperate habits, and frugal management, they make a shift to maintain themselves and their families comfortably ; and there are few of them who have not saved a sum of money, upon which they can draw in any emergency. It may be truly said, that they are an intellectual, moral, and religious people ; and that, through the excellent education which they universally receive, and their natural capabilities, they are becoming more so every day.

Smuggling and pawnbroking are unknown. The game laws, to the credit of the proprietors be it spoken, are very leniently enforced. The parties seem to be upon honour with each other,—the one not poaching beyond a certain extent ; the other not pushing the enforcement of the law so far as persecution.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—To the north of the Tweed there are in this parish about 11,500 acres, either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage ; and about 7600, which remain continually in pasture. The land to the south of the Tweed, which amounts to about a third part of the whole parish, is all cultivated, except the wide base of the Eildon Hills, and a stripe of moorland stretching from them towards the west. There are distinct traces of ancient culture upon the sides of the Eildons, and in the adjoining moorland, in ground which at present none would think of subjecting to the plough. Are we to conclude that the soil of these places was different in ancient times from what it is at present ?

It is more probable that the good soils, mismanaged by husbandmen ignorant of the principles of agriculture, and exhausted by incessant cropping, would be found less productive than the worst land when new broken up; and that, in the dreadful famines to which Scotland in "its warrior day" was liable, the culture of grain, under the most unfavourable circumstances, would pay. The number of acres which at present might be added with advantage to the cultivated land cannot be ascertained; but whenever, in the wild country, the farmer has a long lease, he generally makes discoveries of pieces of good soil, by the culture of which he is well repaid. Much of the land subjected to the plough during the war prices of the grain has been thrown back into pasture; and much that was even then left in pasture has since been broken up, so that, through the judicious enterprise of able agriculturists, the parish seems in the way of being brought into the best possible state for profitably employing and drawing forth the virtues of the different soils. An undivided common, we may add, is unknown. A portion of ground in this neighbourhood, of about seven acres, well worthy of this name, after having been for ages an ugly morass, was lately drained, cultivated, and sold for L. 700, which was distributed among the different tenementors who had claims upon it in sums of L. 30 each. The draining cost them 10s. a-head, and was at first pronounced "a haver." Of this spirited undertaking Sir Walter Scott was the first suggester.

The number of acres under wood is not less than 1200, and there is no natural wood except a few straggling trees, chiefly birches, at Torwoodlee and Colmslie Hill. A few years ago, the custom was to plant a proportion of oak, ash, elm, sycamore, and beech; but at present larch and oak are the rage, and a slight admixture of other trees. In twenty years, the thinnings of the larch defray the whole expense of plantation,—the value of the ground for pasture is doubled,—and the hard-wood with the standing larches far exceeds the value of the ground on which it grows. With respect to the management of the trees, it is only necessary to state, that the greatest attention is paid to thinning, felling, and pruning; and that in these, and all the other operations of planting, the most approved modes are followed.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is 15s. per acre; some lands being above L. 4, and others not exceeding 5s. The average rent of grazing is L. 4 a-year per ox or cow; of pasturing, 7s. a-year per ewe or full-grown sheep.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of labour, winter and summer, for the different kinds of farm-labourers and country artisans, is upon an average, 10s. per week. Superior workmen in the carpenter line receive 2s. 6d. per day,—in the smith line, 14s. per week. The rate of masonry, the best work, and the standard thickness of two feet, is L. 6 per square rood.

Breeds of Stock.—The common breeds of sheep in the parish are Leicester, Cheviot, half-bred and black-faced. The common breeds of cattle are the Teeswater, Ayrshire, and Highland kyloe, with a small admixture of other breeds which a farmer may meet with, and be led to purchase at market.

The farm-buildings of the parish are generally spacious, commodious, and substantial. The inclosures are, for the infield and arable land, thorn quick hedges,—for the outfield and pastoral, stone dikes.

Fisheries.—The fisheries of the Tweed, which ought to abound in salmon, have dwindled down into nothing in this neighbourhood. The few salmon which escape from the Berwick nettings are late in the season before they arrive, when they have in a great measure lost their value, and the close-time has set in. At this, the inhabitants on the banks of the Tweed and its tributaries feel much aggrieved. They complain that their fine rivers are made a mere preserve for the Berwick fisheries; and they seem to have reason.

Produce.—The produce of this parish consists entirely of grain, of stock, and of potatoes, turnips, and hay. The yearly value of each of these separately cannot be procured; but the general value of the raw produce yearly raised has been estimated at L. 50,000, being nearly $2\frac{2}{3}$ of the rental.

Manufactures.—The only great manufacturing establishments in this parish are upon the Gala in Darling's-haugh, and Buckholmside; and, as they form a part of the commercial body of Galashiels, being divided from it by nothing but the parochial boundary line, which, crossing the Gala, and passing along the side of the lead which drives the machinery, intersects, without disuniting that village, a particular account of them more properly forms a part of the statistics of Galashiels parish. As to the Melrose-land-linens, a manufacture mentioned in the last Statistical as being so much on the decline that apprehensions were beginning to be entertained that the place would lose the name and business, the business and its very name have indeed departed long ago,—the bleachfield has become a grazing field,—and the fathers and mothers of the present race still speak with regret of the linen trade, and

the profits they could realize in their youth by the labours of the spinning-wheel. Coëval with, and perhaps contributing to, the fall of this manufacture, was the introduction of cotton weaving from Glasgow, which at one time employed hundreds of hands, many of whom went to **country work** when required, and were profitably employed in weaving during the intervals in which no country work could be procured. This resource, which was a great benefit to the people, in compensating the irregularity of the demand for rural labour, which requires many hands at one season, and comparatively few at another, ceased with the diminished demand for weaving in Glasgow, from which no work has been sent to this place for many years. The population being, nevertheless, greatly upon the increase, owing to causes stated in the last head, we have "the still loom and silent wheel," without the other woful feature in the poetic image of desolation, "the cold hearth." As for the woollen manufacture, it has not left the country, but only withdrawn a few miles west to the banks of the Gala.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town, &c.—Melrose is a market-town, and has 689 inhabitants, who are chiefly employed as retailers, handicrafts, and labourers. As to the police of the place, it was a Burgh of Regality before the abolition of the hereditary jurisdictions; and under the present system, it is the head of its district, having a fiscal acting under the Justices of the Peace, who hold a court in its town-house on the first Saturday of every month. The people frequently settle their differences among themselves by arbitration, which is called "referring them to men," or "setting men on them." There were formerly magistrates called Birly men, who used to hold what was called a Birly court; but this, a relic perhaps of some old Saxon or feudal institution, has fallen into disuse, and all cases not carried before the higher courts are now settled either by a reference to men, or by the decision of the justices.

There are six other villages in the parish, Darnwick, Gattonside, and Newstead, each about a mile distant from Melrose, and in the same valley, having severally a population of 297, 290, and 230; Newtown, three miles to the south-east, having a population of 161; and upon Gala water, four miles to the west, Darling's-haugh, which has 762 inhabitants, and Buckholmside, which has 317, both appendages of Galashiels.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication enjoyed by the parish are ample. There is a post-office in Melrose,

with drop posts to all the neighbouring places of importance; and, besides numerous excellent parish and statute-labour roads, which afford access wherever it is required, there are two spacious turnpikes, the Leader and Gala water roads, which pass, the one along the northern, and the other along the southern boundary of the parish. The Gala water road, from Newtown, where it enters to Caitha-toll, where it leaves the parish, is twelve miles in length; and the Leader water road, after diverging from the other about a mile south from Newtown, continues in the parish for nine miles. On the former, two four-horse coaches, which travel at the rate of seven and eight miles an hour, have succeeded the famous old fly, which, with its venerable pair, would continue from twelve to sixteen hours between Jedburgh and Edinburgh. There are two stone bridges over the Tweed, one a mile above, and another two miles below Melrose, both in the old fashion, narrow and high-raised in the centre, but in perfect repair. Between them, there is a handsome suspension bridge for foot passengers and single horses. A little above the upper stone bridge, there was an ancient bridge of singular construction, having a residence for the pontage-keeper in the centre, and a draw-bridge on each side, which he could lower and elevate at pleasure. The central pillar, or rather tower, which contained the keeper's residence, was of Gothic architecture, and bore the arms of the Pringles of Gala, to whom the right of salmon-fishing in the Tweed was formerly given by royal charter, burdened with the charge of keeping up the pontage communications over the river. It gave name to Bridge-end, which is deemed too small to appear in the enumeration of the villages of the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—There have been eleven Protestant clergymen since the Reformation. The second of the series was the nephew of John Knox, and had the same name. His immediate successor, a person of the name of Forrester, was deposed for popish tendencies, and is said to have used liturgy consisting of dog-grel rhymes of his own composition, and containing such expressions as these: "From the knock-down race of Knoxes, good Lord, deliver us." Fletcher, who became Bishop of Argyre, was much respected during his ministry in this parish for his benignity, public spirit, and attention to the education of the people. But this did not prevent them from rejoicing heartily at the removal of his curate in 1689, and the accession of Mr Wilson, the first Presbyterian clergyman after the revolution, who is still spoken of and regarded with veneration. The school-house was built with

funds bequeathed by Bishop Fletcher, as is commemorated by a Latin inscription on the wall.

The parish church, which was removed in 1810 from the Abbey ruins, where it had been since the Reformation, is on the top of the Wearhill, a few hundred yards west from Melrose. Its exposed situation renders it cold in winter, but it is conveniently situated for the greatest part of the population, being nearly equidistant from the villages of Darnwick, Gattonside, and Newstead. It is three miles distant from the south-western extremity of the parish; from the north-western not less than eight. The sittings are thought to be all free. They were divided at first among the different proprietors, in proportions corresponding with the amount of their assessments, but, excepting such portions as they reserve for the accommodation of their own families and those of their servants, or are pleased to assign to whose who apply for them, the whole church is supposed to be free to the whole parish. The manse, which was built in 1813, is in perfect repair. The glebe is four Scotch acres of poor land, and not worth L. 4 a-year. The stipend is sixteen chalders of victual. There are no chapels of ease in the parish; but one is required in the west, where there is a population of 1000, four miles distant from the parish church.

There are no Roman Catholics in this part of the country. There are occasionally a few Episcopalian families who attend the parish church,—the nearest Episcopalian congregation being in Kelso. An attempt was made to establish a congregation of Methodists, but it failed, and a chapel built by that sect has been lately sold and pulled down. Almost the whole of the Dissenters in this part of the country belong to the United Associate Synod, and they have two meeting-houses in this parish—one in Melrose, and another in Newtown, romantically situated in the spacious dell through which the Bowden burn flows into the Tweed. The living of the former is L. 95, that of the latter is L. 100, which has also a handsome house and garden for the minister. The Seceders of this part of the country are to a man favourable to an Established church. They disapprove of patronage, but seem to be abundantly sensible of the expediency of a national provision being made for teaching the doctrine of our Lord. They would rather receive instruction gratis than pay, and they would rather pay, than not have a minister of their own choice. A great part of the congregation of Newtown is derived from the neighbouring parishes, but a considerable proportion of the population, who reside on the banks of

the Leader and Gala, belong to dissenting congregations in Gala-shiels, Stow, Lauder, and Earlstoun; so that the number of Dissenters residing within the bounds of this parish cannot be estimated at more than 700. Those who adhere to the Established church are 3400; the number of families about 600; the number of communicants 800. Both in the Establishment and among the Dissenters, divine service is well attended.

Religious Societies.—There are two missionary societies in the parish; the amount of their contributions is about L. 12 each; and there is an annual collection for their behoof, which has frequently exceeded L. 20, and sometimes fallen so low as L. 6.

Education.—Besides the parish school held in Melrose, there are six considerable schools in the villages, for each of which a comfortable school-house has been built. There is a small school at Langshaw, with a salary of L. 3 a-year, derived from a mortification, which is the only endowed school in the parish; and there are numerous other small schools among the remote onsteads and cottage groups, sometimes established by the teacher himself on a speculation, and sometimes by a number of families, who unite together and agree to hire a teacher, the usual rate being his board and lodging free, and his chance of scholars. He is comfortably lodged with the principal person in the cottage group, to whom he is an agreeable companion, and to whose children he privately gives additional attention, and his school fees may amount to L. 15 per annum. He is generally some pious old intelligent person in decayed circumstances, or a young aspirant after a higher school, who is gradually acquiring habits and attainments to fit him for more extensive usefulness. The whole system is working exceedingly well, and no additional schools are required. If any were, such is the importance the people attach to the education of their children that they would not be long wanting. We may venture to say, that there are none in the parish above six who cannot read, and none above fifteen who cannot write, and that the people universally are alive to the benefits of education. In the *side* schools there is little required but English, writing, arithmetic, with geography and history. In the parochial school, the highest branches of education are taught admirably well. The teacher is thoroughly versed in Latin, Greek, French, mathematics, with their application to the arts and sciences. His salary is L. 30,—L. 4, 4s. less than the maximum, but he has the legal accommodation. The school fees are 2s. a quarter for English, and for

the higher branches of education 6s. 6d. and 8s. The number of scholars is about 70 or 80. Of the children only a small proportion can be benefited by the parochial school, which is three miles distant from one extremity of the parish and eight from another; but it is extremely useful, and in high estimation as an upper seminary, to which the young people can be sent when farther advanced, as they are, from the distance of several miles.

Since the facilities of education were increased, a most decided change in the morals of the people in this part of the country has become visible. The number of delinquencies requiring church censure which occur has, as the old compared with recent records of the Court of Session shew, diminished from seven and ten a-week to three in the year. This is a strong and well ascertained fact; and it may be added, that the people universally have become more steady in their habits, more mild in their manners and dispositions, and more exemplary in their general character, moral and religious. Education in this part of the country has enabled the people to find in reading a cheap and innocent amusement at their own fire-sides, increasing the comforts of home. It has brought them more under the influence of all the motives to good conduct; it has rendered them less liable to be deluded by those false and extravagant views of things which are the main source of "sedition, heresy, and schism:" and, accordingly, in this part of the country, there is no sect whose doctrine differs materially from that of the Established church. The people at present, in consequence of education, both live, lodge, and dress in a far superior style to what they enjoyed forty or fifty years ago; they also save more money now than they did then; and yet the rate of wages, compared with the state of the markets, was at that period double what it is at present. To what can this be owing? To nothing but the good management, judicious economy, and orderly habits which have been produced by the improved intelligence of the people. It would appear, therefore, that education, besides its other high advantages, really enables the people to live more comfortably at a cheaper rate, which is exactly the reverse of what some speculators are inclined to maintain.

Literature.—There is a Subscription Library in Melrose, with small religious libraries among the principal villages, which admit of general literature, also; and it may be truly said, that there is not a cottage which does not possess a small store of books. There are no periodical publications of any kind printed within the bounds of the parish, but it is illustrated by works of a higher order, which

have proceeded from Abbotsford, Chiefswood, and Allerly; the residences of Scott, of Lockhart, and Hamilton, and of Brewster.

Institutions.—There are three Friendly Societies in the parish, the Friendly Society of Melrose established in 1790, the Society of St John's Lodge established in 1797, and that of the Free Gardeners established in 1821. That such institutions are beneficial cannot be doubted. They act as an insurance in alleviating the wants of individuals from the contributions of numbers; and the members, by paying in the small sum of 1s. a quarter, receive from 3s. to 5s. a week, when sick, aged, or infirm. But, besides that they are continually apt to break or to become unable to make good their engagements, the necessary calculations being generally too difficult for their establishers, and their basis too narrow for an Insurance Company to rest on, they are, it is obvious, in their best state, and with every advantage of which their nature admits, vastly inferior to the savings banks, in utility and in the incitement to industry which they afford.

Savings Bank.—There is a savings bank in the parish and village of Melrose, which is intended for the behoof of the lower classes of the people only, and in which the sums deposited amount annually to L. 300, and the sums withdrawn to L. 250. As it is a regulation, that the sums deposited should be withdrawn whenever they have attained to such an amount, that they can be conveniently transferred to a regular bank, the cash actually in the savings bank, which is more than L. 1500, is but a small part of what actually has been accumulated by the lower orders of this neighbourhood. One thing is evident, that their savings for several years back have not been less than L. 300 per annum. At the extremities of the parish, the people make their deposits elsewhere. We speak only of the savings bank of Melrose, and of the deposits made in the neighbourhood of that village.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons who are upon the poor's roll does not exceed seventy. The sum allotted to each is 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. per week, amounting on an average to about L. 4, 16s. per annum. The funds for the maintenance of these, the enrolled and permanent poor, are raised by an assessment of L. 84 per quarter, upon the landed proprietors of the parish, which is imposed and distributed by the heritors themselves, at quarterly meetings which they hold. Besides the assessment, there are the church collections, small funeral ones of various amount, and private donations which are from time to time received from the opulent families who reside in the neighbourhood. Ac-

cording to the old system, which has lately been resumed, the management of these funds is committed to the minister and elders; and they are not so much intended for the regular maintenance of the permanent poor as to afford relief to persons in temporary distress. To the enrolled poor also, relief is continually given out of the same funds, particularly at the beginning of winter, or in times of sickness, when what they receive from the heritors is more than usually inadequate. And it may be observed in general, that whatever is given by the kirk-session is received as a benefaction, and that what is received from the heritors after a statement of their case, is claimed as a right. This right, however, the people have universally a great reluctance to exercise at first : but when once their names are on the roll, there is never a possibility of getting them off. The kirk-session, therefore, besides the good which it does in increasing the comforts, alleviating the distresses, and soothing the feelings of the poor, is highly useful in an economical point of view. By preventing the people from applying for public aid when in temporary distress, and thereby fostering the spirit of independence, or at least preventing it from being crushed prematurely, it diminishes the number of importunate poor, incites people to strive to maintain themselves as long as possible, giving them occasional aid under difficulties, which would otherwise be insurmountable ; and thus it tends to lessen the amount of the legal assessment. In former times, the heritors used to make advances to the kirk-session out of their own funds, sensible that their money could not be more usefully employed in any other way, and there is evidently much wisdom in making the people receive their relief from the hands of the same persons to whom is committed the power of moral discipline, control, and rebuke, which will tend to strengthen their authority, and to mitigate the ill will to which the exercise of that dangerous but salutary power may render them liable. The elders are also, by their knowledge of, and access to, individuals, of great service, in making a suitable distribution of the funds.

This, the true old Scottish mode of providing for the poor, introduced, perhaps, so early as the Reformation, and recommended by its own benignity, as well as the experience of ages, was interfered with in this place about twelve years ago with some view to improvement. From a strange misconception of the system of Dr Chalmers, according to whom the relief of the poor ought to be committed entirely to private charity, aided and directed by such an order of men as the elders,—the heritors took to themselves the sole management of the poor, after which the church

collections were made in their name, and for their behoof, and all distinction between the public and private relief,—the permanent and the occasional poor, was lost. On the effects of this injudicious measure it is unnecessary to enlarge. But it is proper to state, that its evil effects were mitigated by this, that the heritors could not claim, nor the elders give up, the management of the private donations which they continued to receive from time to time,—that after a trial of twelve years the new system has been abandoned,—and that the kirk-session is now restored to the full exercise of its old functions. The amount of the church collections has in consequence greatly increased; and it is not impossible that the legal assessment may in time be brought down nearly to what it formerly was.

The legal assessment ought on no account to be abolished, both because it enables parishes to derive aid from the non-resident proprietors, and for the sake of distinction between the public and private distribution of charitable relief. The kirk-session ought not to have the power of assessing the heritors, or the elders of Scotland, hitherto characterized by humble piety and unassuming worth, might come to degenerate into the arrogant and oppressive churchwarden.* But neither ought this excellent and most useful court to be interfered with in the exercise of its own proper functions. Under this system the poor do not apply for aid,—they are sought out,—they receive a friendly visit from the elder of the district, who inquires kindly into their circumstances, and speaks comfortably to them, giving them a little aid from time to time; and if at length the circumstances of any shall have gone down into irrecoverable pauperism, he states their case to the heritors, and applies for them. The old Presbyterian kirk-session, wherever it exists in perfection, as it really does in this parish, may be truly described as one of the best institutions that ever was devised by the wisdom and benignity of man, for relieving the distresses, and soothing the feelings of the poor.

Prisons.—There are no prisons in the parish, except a single cell, seldom or never used, similar to, and similarly situated, with another for receiving the feudal grain of the Duke of Buccleuch, which seems to have been built chiefly for the sake of uniformity.

Fairs.—There are three fairs held in this place, the May fair, named from the old style, and held in the beginning of June; the

* The evils with which the English poor-laws are attended seem wholly owing to this, that the proprietors do not, as in Scotland, assess themselves, otherwise there would have been no danger that the assessment would rise too high.

Lammas fair, and the Martinmas fair. They are all cattle-markets; and the Lammas fair has of late years risen into such high importance as a sheep-market, as to rival the great fair of St Boswells. There used to be a small market in the spring called the scarce Thursday fair, a corruption for Kier or Holy Thursday, which is said to have been in high repute as a village carnival in Catholic times.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There are no less than thirty of these in the parish, of which the effects on the morals of the people are most pernicious.

Fuel.—The chief fuel in this part of the country is coal driven from the Lothians over the Soltra, and from Northumberland over the Carter, which sells at 1s. 3d. per cwt. The thinnings of the neighbouring plantations are also much used, and peats from the moss bogs of Blainslie, of which one sells at 1s. 6d. the other at 3s. for the cart load, exclusive of carriage.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The chief circumstance in which the present differs from the past state of the parish, is the general enlargement of the farms. Except in the case of a carrier or miller, who rents a few acres to furnish fodder for, and to give regular employment to his horses, a small farm is nearly unknown. The displacing of the old small tenants, distinguished as they were by a primitive simplicity of manners, was at first viewed with deep regret; that an entire barony should be committed to one man, was exclaimed against as a public grievance. But the introduction of a better and more spirited style of agriculture which immediately followed, the rapid improvement of the country, which in a limited period has raised the rental of this parish from L. 4000 nearly to L. 20,000 a-year, besides the improved condition of the agricultural labourers, seem to show that it was a change for the better. The land is divided into a limited number of great farms; and the tenants, men of capital and high intelligence, are enabled to give the best effect to the virtues of the soil; and the great body of the people live quietly under them as farm-servants and hired labourers, having no care but to do their work and receive their wages. The influence of the master over the people whom he employs is immense, and not the less that it is not perceived. The great farms, the valuable men at the head of them, and a resident proprietary, may be regarded as among the chief causes of the prosperity and tranquillity for which this part of the country is so greatly distinguished.

November 1834.

PARISH OF WILTON.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. DAVID STEVENSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE modern orthography of the parish is Wilton,—obviously an abbreviation of Wiltown, in which form it appears in almost all the old records. In several ancient documents it is referred to under the designation of Walltown and Willis-town; but the precise origin of the name cannot now be ascertained.

Boundaries, &c.—The parish of Wilton is bounded by Ashkirk and Robertson on the west; by Hawick on the south; by Cavers on the east; and by Minto and Lilliesleaf on the north. Its extent along the banks of the Tiviot is about 5 miles; average breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$; and contents $17\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. Its figure is nearly that of a parallelogram,

The principal river in this district, which may be called the Upper Ward of Roxburghshire, is the Tiviot. It takes its rise at a place called Tiviot-stone, about 16 miles south-west of this parish, and runs in a north-easterly direction, until it joins the Tweed at Kelso,—a distance of 36 miles. The Borthwick, a considerable tributary stream, falls into the Tiviot near the southern extremity of the parish, and the Slitridge or Slitrig joins it at Hawick.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

From the proximity of Wilton to Hawick, considerable notice has been taken of this parish in the History of Hawick, by Mr Robert Wilson, shoemaker in Hawick, published a few years ago. This is not only an amusing work, but contains much valuable local information, and is very creditable to the talents of its author.

Eminent Men.—No eminent literary characters appear to have been connected with this parish by birth. It may be noticed, however, that Mr Crawford, minister of Wilton, who flourished about the year 1713, was a gentleman of considerable literary attainments; and in his "Dying Thoughts" left a monument of his piety

behind him. Dr Charters, minister of the parish, was also a clergyman of no common pulpit eminence, and the author of Sermons, which, in simplicity of language, elevation of sentiment, and excellent practical morality, have few to excel them among the modern publications of this kind.

Land-owners.—His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry is patron, and principal heritor in the parish. He is also Titular of the teinds, and his property is rated in the cess-books of the county at nearly one-half of the valued rent. Besides his Grace, there are ten or eleven landed proprietors, whose interest in the parish is, individually, from L. 100 to L. 1000 Scots; also a considerable number of minor heritors.

Parochial Registers.—The Session records commence in 1694. They are voluminous and well-kept. The minute-book of the heritors, also a well-kept record, extends from 1723 to the present time, and contains an account of transactions relating to the poor, and the economics of the parish. The only remaining register is that of births; but, as in many other parishes in Scotland, it exhibits nothing like a punctual or regular registration,—parents often disregarding every admonition to record the nativity of their children.*

There is in this parish no register of deaths, and nothing in the shape of a record of marriages, excepting only a record of the names of those who have had proclamation of banns in the church.

III.—POPULATION.

According to the former Account, the population in 1755 amounted to 936. The average number of marriages for the three years immediately preceding the date of that Account was 13; of baptisms, 20, and of deaths 8. “But these numbers,” adds the writer, “cannot be accounted precisely accurate, as all are not recorded.”

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------|
| In 1801, by census, | - | - | - | 1307 |
| In 1811, | - | - | - | 1527 |
| In 1821, | - | - | - | 1678 |
| In 1826, the date of the present minister's connection with the parish, | - | - | - | 1712 |
| In 1831, | - | - | - | 1870 |

Of marriages, or rather proclamations, the average number for the last seven years amounts to 114.

* The expense of registration is so trifling, and the benefit which results from it is often so great, that it is surprising to find such universal negligence in this matter. No doubt there are statutes in force to compel this observance, but it is an invidious task, and not worth the session-clerk's while to enforce them; and, unless the power of registration be lodged elsewhere, it is much to be feared that the present irregular practice will not soon be corrected.

There are at present in the parish 2 persons insane; 1 fatuous; and 1 blind.

Language.—The language generally spoken by the lower orders, throughout this district, contains many provincialisms, but these are becoming gradually obsolete. Two diphthongal sounds, however, seem still to maintain *their* ground, namely, those resembling the Greek *et*, and the *ow*, as in the English words, cow, sow, how, *now*,—*e. g.* the common people generally pronounce, tree, *tret*; tea, *tet*; knee, *knet*; me, *met*; and, instead of the diphthongal sound of *oo* in the pronoun you, the pronunciation is almost invariably *yow*, as in now.

Poaching in game is carried to a very considerable extent in this district; and, so long as the present game laws continue, there is very little prospect of any material diminution. Unqualified persons are to be met with, in bands, in open day, equipped in all the habiliments of the licensed sportsman. This is an employment prejudicial in a high degree to the morals and industry of the community; and it would render an essential service to many poor families, were the law efficient enough to suppress poaching altogether, or make it an employment not worth the prosecuting. *

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—About two-thirds of the parish are in tillage. But there is very little land that has not at some period been cultivated, as appears by the high ridges that may be observed in all old pastures. A great part of the out-field land in the parish, however, has not been ploughed within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. There is no land which could with profit be added to the cultivated land in the parish; but, on the contrary, perhaps a part of what is at present cultivated might be more profitable if left in permanent pasture. The number of acres under wood is about 100.

The kinds of trees commonly planted are, oak, ash, elm, and beech, with larch, Scotch, spruce, and silver firs to nurse. The proportions are, about one-fourth of hard-wood and three-fourths of fir. Considerable attention is paid to the management of wood, by yearly thinning, pruning, &c.

Rent of Land.—It is difficult to ascertain the exact rent of arable land, but, at a rough guess, it may be stated on an average at about L. 1, 1s. per acre. The average rent of grazing may be at the

* In consequence of the establishment of an active constable in the town of Hawick, poaching, within these last two years, has very much decreased.

rate of L. 5 for an ox or cow, kept for a year, and 6s. for a ewe or full-grown sheep, upon unimproved land. The real rent of the parish in 1827 was somewhat more than L. 6000.

Rate of Wages.—Married farm-servants are hired for the year, and their wages, which are paid chiefly in kind, may be valued at from L. 25 to L. 28. Single servants are hired by the half year, and receive from L. 6 to L. 7 in summer, and from L. 4 to L. 5 in winter, besides board. Day-labourers receive 2s. per day in summer, and 1s. 6d. in winter; women, 10d. in summer, and 8d. in winter for out-door labour.

Masons and carpenters, by the day, are paid a little more than common labourers. Mason-work, per contract, may be done for 36s. to 40s. per rood, for workmanship only; or from L. 5 to L. 7, according to circumstances, materials being furnished. Roofing with house timber is about 1s. per square yard for workmanship. Joisting and flooring, 1s. 6d. per square yard. A farm cart costs about L. 9, with all furnishings; a wooden plough, (now seldom used) about L. 3. Country smiths are generally paid in stated sums (about L. 3) a-year for each pair of horses kept upon a farm. This includes shoeing and repairing plough irons and harrows.

Husbandry.—The system of husbandry generally pursued is the four or five-shift rotation; but it is thought the land is gradually deteriorated by this mode of cropping, and would require to rest longer in grass. Turnips are generally sown for a fallow crop, except on wet lands, when clean fallow, succeeded by a crop of wheat, is preferred. Some attempts have lately been made to raise spring wheat in the lower part of the parish, but the success has not been such as to encourage that practice, except in the most sheltered situations.

The greatest part of the wet land in the parish has been drained, but in such a superficial manner, that in many cases the drains require to be renewed. A better system, however, has now been introduced, and is generally practised. A good deal of expense has been incurred in embanking the river Tiviot, but much still requires to be done.

The duration of leases is generally fifteen or nineteen years,—except upon the Duke of Buccleuch's estate, where it is only nine, but the leases are usually renewed at the end of that period.

The farm-buildings in the parish are mostly old, and, in many cases, insufficient for the accommodation of the farm. The land is all inclosed, and the arable land subdivided chiefly by thorn hedges, which are well kept, and thriving.

It has been found impracticable to ascertain the average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish.

Manufactures.—There are engaged in manufactures about 240 male adults resident in this parish, of whom five are masters. There are five mills employed in spinning wool in the parish. Of the five Firms to which they belong, three have their counting-rooms, warehouses, and considerable branches of their business, such as are not immediately connected with mill-machinery, in the neighbouring town of Hawick. Exclusive of these, there are about 500 men, women, and children, employed in manufactories in the parish.

Wool Manufactures.—The manufactories of the parish are of various descriptions of goods made from wool,—such as lambs' wool yarn and hosiery, blankets, plaidings, flannels, tartan shawls, and other goods of a similar nature. The whole mills contain fifty teasing, scribbling, and carding engines, (most of the two latter being what are called double engines,) which prepare as much wool as keeps in motion 9578 spindles in slaubing, spinning, and doubling yarn. The quantity of wool consumed weekly, as nearly as can be estimated, is, upon an average, about 11,500 lb, and gives employment to about 230 slaubers, spinners, &c.—men and lads, who have the care of machinery,—and women, who supply wool to the carding and scribbling engines,—and children, who are employed by the former as piecers,—240 stocking-makers, 75 weavers, and about 40 people in milling, scouring, dyeing, and finishing goods.

Those employed in the mills generally work from six o'clock in the morning till seven o'clock in the evening,—two hours being allowed for meals. Stocking-makers, weavers, &c. begin the day at six in the morning, and cease working at eight o'clock in the evening; but the work-hours of the latter are not regular.

It may be noticed, that some of the manufacturers have of late worked part of their machinery night and day, *i. e.* from one o'clock Monday morning till eleven o'clock Saturday night. Where this is done, two sets of work-people are employed, and each set takes the night-work every alternate week.

Very few children are employed before nine years of age. The work they are put to is of a very light description; and, from the quantity of vegetable oil used in preparing the wool, and the factories being well-aired, they are generally very healthy and thriving. They have all been taught to read previously to their entering a factory, and most of them attend one or other of the Sunday

schools of Hawick. Their situation is fully as comfortable as that of their class in general, though, it must be granted, that manufactories are commonly not the best schools of morality for youth. In many instances, however, fathers who are slaubers or spinners employ their own children as piecers; and the good conduct of many children under the restraining influence of a parent's eye, has, without doubt, a beneficial effect on others who have not the same advantages.

Since the introduction of the woollen manufactories into this part of the country, the quantity of wool consumed has been gradually and regularly increasing. In the year ending December 31, 1828, there were manufactured in Hawick and Wilton parishes, 1,088,641 slips of yarn, and 432,201 pairs of hose; in the year ending December 31, 1829, 1,010,641 slips of yarn, and 465,823 pairs of hose; and in the year ending December 31, 1830, 1,102,865 slips of yarn, and 488,487 pairs of hose; and there is annually, besides, a large quantity of yarn manufactured into blankets, plaidings, and flannels.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town, &c.—There is no market-town in the parish. Wilton may be called the suburbs of Hawick, and is scarcely disjoined from it; nay, a small section of the parish actually forms a part of the town of Hawick. The grammar-school lately erected there, an excellent building, but very incommodiously situated, is in the parish of Wilton.

Villages, &c.—There are three villages, or rather hamlets, in the parish,—viz. Appletree Hall, towards the north; Langlands Dean, in the south; and what may be called the village of Wilton.

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is at Hawick, and an excellent communication has lately been formed with that town from the north by a new bridge of four arches across the Tiviot. This new approach runs through a small part of the glebe between the church and the manse, and joins the present Edinburgh road, at what is called Dovemount Well.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is almost equidistant from either extremity of the parish. None of the church-going population reside at more than two miles and a-half from the church; and the Dissenters consider it as no inconvenience to travel half a-mile farther to their respective places of worship at Hawick. The present parish church was built in 1762, and very lately underwent a considerable internal repair, and was handsomely painted.

It affords accommodation for about 600 persons, and all the sittings are free. A considerable number of years ago, an additional gallery was built in front of the pulpit, at the joint expense of the Duke of Buccleuch, the late venerable Dr Charters, and William Oliver, Esq. aided by a few small subscriptions. This section of the church is open to sitters of almost every description, and differs from the rest of the accommodation, which was originally allocated to the heritors, according to their respective valuations. The lower part of the aisle or gallery referred to, was reserved for a cemetery to the family of Dr Charters; and there the ashes of that eminent servant of God repose, with a plain inscription upon a neat marble tablet, from the pen of his intimate friend, the late excellent and venerable Dr Thomas Somerville of Jedburgh.

The manse was built about fifty years ago, is a substantial edifice, and kept in good repair by the heritors. It is upon a scale much smaller than modern houses of the same description, and quite inadequate to the comfortable accommodation of a large family.

The stipend is six chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, with L. 36 and odds in money. "The glebe," says Dr Charters, "is large and valuable;" and it is much to be regretted that former incumbents, who lived nearer the source of information, did not think it proper, for the benefit of their successors, to give a more ample account of it. The glebe, properly so called, is altogether an anomaly in the Church of Scotland. What may be denominated *in-field*, and lying around the manse, consists of about eighty English acres of excellent land, all arable, and has been in possession of the minister from time immemorial. There is no document or record in existence to show how this land came into the hands of the church, and every search to discover its history has been altogether in vain. All that can be said in this respect is, that the land is in the possession of the minister, and no person can say with certainty how it came. There is no proof that this extra quantity of land was ever designed as a glebe, or actually given out of the lands of the heritors, by any special appropriation. In an account of his stipend and emoluments, given by the Rev. Mr Simpson, one of the former incumbents, in 1765, he says, "that there is a glebe, and certain lands called the Mains of Wilton, belonging to the minister of Wilton, which lie contiguous, and the respective bounds of which are not known, but in conjunction, they are bounded as follows," &c. But there is a tradition in the

parish and neighbourhood, respecting the acquisition of this land to the benefice, which, though not supported by any existing document, must have had its origin in fact.

It appears from the records of the presbytery of Jedburgh, that a Mr John Langlands was minister of Wilton in 1641, and that the presentation to the parish at that time belonged to the Buccleuch family, and to the Langlands of Langlands, *per vices*. The Mains of Wilton, which lie contiguous to the church and manse, and formed a boundary to the estate of Langlands, are said by this traditionary account to have been given by the Laird of Langlands to his relative, then minister of the parish; and, if any deed of conveyance accompanied the grant, it has long since been lost. The tradition, however, from the remotest periods, has universally been, that the benefice obtained the lands in the manner now mentioned from the Langlands family.

Yet, notwithstanding the uncertainty as to the origin of the glebe, and although it could not be shown that the Mains of Wilton had ever been designed by the heritors in lieu of any portion of the stipend, the Court of Teinds in 1827 held the lands to be the old glebe lands of the Popish incumbents, forming part of the original endowments of the benefice. Previous to 1649, the stipend was 12 bolls of meal and bear, Tiviotdale measure, and 540 merks Scots. An augmentation was then obtained, although the decree of locality is now lost, which made the stipend amount to 3 chalders, Linlithgow measure, and L. 560 Scots, exclusive of the glebe, and this continued to be the value of the living for the period of 178 years. During this long interval no process of augmentation, so far as it is known, was brought forward; and, while other churches were gradually rising in the scale of emolument, the heritors of Wilton, through the apathy or timidity of its incumbents, were suffered to retain in their pockets the augmented stipend which might have been obtained.

Besides the lands which lie contiguous to the manse, there are also belonging to this church about sixteen English acres, which were acquired in the division of Wilton common in 1765. This *out-field* is two miles west from the church, and, although nearly all arable, yet, being in a high and exposed situation, it is much inferior in value to that part of the glebe formerly mentioned.

There are no chapels of ease, nor dissenting congregations of any description in this parish. The Seceders, as at the period when Dr Charters gave in his report, are numerous, although they have

not increased in proportion to the increase of population. Divine service at the Established church is well attended, and the average number of communicants is about 400.

The average yearly amount of church collections for the last seven years is L. 16. As in many other parishes, there are here two funds for the support or assistance of the poor, namely, the heritors' fund, and the collections, with other monies belonging to the kirk-session. The session funds are appropriated chiefly to the relief of incidental distress, and operate powerfully in keeping paupers from the heritors' fund.* The school-fees for a considerable number of poor children are also paid from this fund; and books are occasionally furnished from it for those whose parents are not able to supply them.

Education.—Besides the parish school, there are two unendowed schools, well taught. Although the parish is not large, it is much to be regretted that the heritors, when the schoolmasters' salaries were recently augmented, did not, as in many parishes, allow an additional chaldar for the benefit of these unendowed schools. They have been long in existence, and are of great benefit to the inhabitants of those sections of the parish where they are situated. Men who devote their time and talents to the instruction of youth ought certainly to have a decent remuneration, which, however, in many cases, cannot be obtained, even where the attendance is numerous, in consequence of the low rate of fees.

The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary. Neither the school-house nor dwelling-house are commodious, and he has not the legal quantity of ground for a garden, but receives a compensation for the deficiency. The teaching apartment is not good, and is by far too small to accommodate comfortably the very considerable number of scholars who attend the school. All the branches of education commonly taught in parish schools are taught here successfully, by an able, experienced, and indefatigable teacher. His fees may probably amount to L. 50 per annum.

* A few years ago, several of the minor heritors, into whose hands the business of the parish had fallen, in consequence of the non-attendance of many whose interest in the parish is greater, endeavoured to avail themselves of that clause in the *poors' act* which authorizes them to take from the kirk-session the half of all collections and other monies. This was not the resolution of any thing like a majority of the heritors; and the consequence was, that the collections in a short time dwindled down to nothing,—insomuch, that collecting for several Sabbaths ceased altogether. The people would not contribute when they knew that the half of the collections was to be diverted from their original object, and applied to assist the heritors in the maintenance of the ordinary poor. A return to the old system soon followed, by the resolution of a great majority of the heritors, and the collections are now nearly as ample as before.

No instance is known of any person, who has arrived at the age of fifteen years, being unable to read or write. The people are alive to the benefits of education, and send their children early to school.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last seven years, including a few who receive an occasional supply, is 55; and the average sum allowed to each individual is 2s. 2d. per week. The annual average amount of contributions levied by assessment upon the heritors and tenants for the same period is L. 308. As the church collections derive no benefit from the principal and several other heritors who are non-resident, this fund would go but a very short way in relieving the necessities of the poor. The present mode of assessment is certainly the best, because all are compelled to contribute in proportion to their interest in the parish; whereas were the principle of voluntary contribution adopted, many, it is to be feared, from a parsimonious spirit, would give with a sparing hand. No doubt, the maintenance of the poor is a burden, but it is one of those burdens which must be borne; and there is no other way of doing it, but by a legal provision or individual benevolence. In large towns, where many are wealthy and disposed to charity, the poor may find in some degree a precarious subsistence; but it is altogether impracticable in country parishes, where many of their neighbours are nearly as necessitous as themselves, and of consequence have little to spare. Nothing can be more preposterous, than the idea of maintaining 50 or 60 paupers by spontaneous benevolence, where not only the means are awanting, but where even the benevolent themselves have frequently little time to devote to the business of finding out and relieving the wants of the poor. Much has also been said about the rapid increase of pauperism, but it will be found in this, as in many other parishes, that the number of poor has not increased with the increase of the population. There were between 30 and 40 paupers when the population was 900, and the average number for the last seven years is only 55, though the population in that time has been more than doubled. The expense of maintenance has also been loudly complained of; but it seldom occurs to those who make this complaint, that not only the value of produce has been much enhanced, but also that neither the number of the poor, nor their weekly aliment, has borne any thing like a proportion to the increase of rents within these last fifty years; and it ought, moreover, to be considered, that even the poor themselves contri-

bute materially to heighten the value of produce, and thus a reciprocity or interchange of advantage actually occurs to those by whom the poor are maintained.

Fuel.—The expense of fuel is great in this district. The nearest coal is brought from Red Water, Northumberland, a distance of 28 or 30 miles, and is generally sold by the cart load of five bags, containing about ten cwt. at from 13s. to 14s. Coal is also brought from Berwickshire *via* Kelso, and sold by the cwt. The average price during the year is about 14d., although after harvest, and occasionally at other times, it can be bought at 11d. and 1s. per cwt. Of late years, in consequence of more competition, coal is brought to Hawick much cheaper than formerly. During a long-continued storm, it has been sold so high as 2s. 2d. and 2s. 4d. per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In closing this report, I have only farther to remark, that the inland situation of this district, which is nearly equidistant from the Solway, the Forth at Leith and the sea at Berwick, is certainly not favourable to the extension of manufactures, as the land carriage of articles for exportation adds so considerably to the prime cost; and the want of facilities for internal communication by canals and railroads, is a desideratum that will not easily be supplied, on account of the altitude and uneven surface of the country. Yet, notwithstanding these local disadvantages, commerce, trade, and agriculture are in a flourishing condition; and the whole of the manufactories which have been described above, have sprung up in this parish since the date of the last report. Were coal more easily procured, it would undoubtedly add materially both to the comfort of the inhabitants, and to the extension of trade. And were such of the labouring classes as spend their earnings injudiciously,—and not a few of these are to be found everywhere—to abjure the immoderate use of whisky, they would be better clad and better fed, and promote at least the temporal comfort of themselves and families.

November 1834.

PARISH OF ROBERTON.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER NIVISON, MINISTER. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries.—THE extent of Robertson parish in length is about 13 miles, and in breadth about 5. It contains about 48 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Ettrick, Yarrow, Ashkirk, and Selkirk; on the east, by Ashkirk and Wilton; on the south, by Hawick, and Cavers; and on the west by Eskdalemoor, and Ettrick.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish is hilly; but no single hill rises nearly to the height of the Ettrick ones on the north, or those of Liddesdale on the south. The most elevated is the range to the west of the parish, upon the boundaries of Dumfries-shire, containing the hills of Craickmoor, the Culm or Coom, (evidently from the Latin *culmen*), and one of a rather conical figure, called the Criblaw of Craick. None of these, it is thought, much exceeds 1300 feet above the level of the sea. This range of hills lies north and south. The acclivities are in some places precipitous, but generally moderate, and the summits are flat. Two other ranges of hills, of less elevation, fall from the above, in an eastern direction; and between these is the water and vale of Borthwick. The one range rises on the south of Borthwick water, and declines again towards Tiviot river; the other rises on the north side and declines a little towards Ale-water. The vale of Borthwick is generally narrow.

Meteorology.—The situation of the parish, at nearly equal distances from the east and west seas, determines in a great degree the temperature and climate. It has been ascertained that nearly one-third more rain falls in this neighbourhood than in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. July and August are the warmest and driest months in the year, though in these we have sometimes

* Drawn up by Mr Andrew Hogg, formerly schoolmaster of Robertson, now schoolmaster of Wilton.

terrible thunder storms, accompanied with heavy falls of rain. Rheumatism among the labouring classes, especially in the decline of life, is still a general complaint here; but considerably less so since the introduction of surface draining. The weather in September and October is very variable. The following tables, the one taken from the Transactions of the Royal Society, Edinburgh, and the other from Dr Douglas's "View of the Agriculture of Roxburgh and Selkirkshire," will furnish the best information connected with the temperature and climate.

Comparative table of the rain that fell at Branzholm and Wool or Wall.*

| | | Branzholm. | Wool. |
|-------|---|------------|--------|
| 1773, | - | 32.652 | 34.022 |
| 1774, | - | 29.250 | 30.688 |
| 1775, | - | 38.573 | 39.177 |
| 1766, | - | 26.295 | 27.579 |

Abstract of the medium state of the barometer, thermometer, and rain, for the year 1780.

| Branzholm. | | | | Wool or Wall. | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| | Bar. | Ther. | Rain. Frost. | Bar. | Ther. | Rain. |
| January, - | 29.160 | 25.605 | 1.250 | 29.360 | 29.020 | 1.120 |
| February - | 29.000 | 32.290 | 2.950 | 28.050 | 32.870 | 1.210 |
| March, - | 29.000 | 42.613 | 2.500 | 28.820 | 43.000 | 2.780 |
| April, - | 28.900 | 40.700 | 4.025 | 28.720 | 40.880 | 4.065 |
| May, - | 29.090 | 50.226 | 2.100 | 28.920 | 51.020 | 3.590 |
| June, - | 29.213 | 55.000 | 2.050 | 29.090 | 52.500 | 1.860 |
| July, - | 29.280 | 58.355 | 0.250 | 29.995 | 60.050 | 1.690 |
| August, - | 29.430 | 59.000 | 3.350 | 29.310 | 63.000 | 0.500 |
| September, - | 29.000 | 54.900 | 4.700 | 28.630 | 56.140 | 4.415 |
| October, - | 29.230 | 44.260 | 1.975 | 28.710 | 45.050 | 4.060 |
| November, - | 28.180 | 34.600 | 0.350 | 28.250 | 36.850 | 1.440 |
| December, - | 29.530 | 35.700 | | 29.440 | 35.025 | 0.540 |
| | | | 25.500 | 27.170 | | |

Hydrography—There are several lakes in the parish.—That of Ale Moor is a pretty circular sheet of water, about two miles in circumference, of considerable depth; in some places it has been ascertained to be thirty fathoms. From it, flows Ale-water. Hell-moor lake, partly in the parish, and treble the extent of Ale-moor, is more shallow. The scenery around both is in the summer season pleasant, but rather tame. The lake of Moodlaw, to the west of the parish, is said to be equally divided among the three parishes of Robertson, Eskdalemoor, and Ettrick; and each parish in its respective county, Roxburgh, Dumfries and Selkirk. Thus three parishes and three counties meet in the centre of this lake.

* Branzholm is situated about three miles nearly south of Robertson, but considerably lower in elevation; and Wool is about five miles nearly north, and nearly as high in situation.

The water of Borthwick flows from the range of hills on the west of the parish. Its direction is eastward, its course rapid, and length about thirteen miles. It falls into the river Teviot about two miles west of Hawick.

Geology and Mineralogy—The prevalent rocks are of the grey-wacke series. A seam of very excellent ironstone crosses the parish. The alluvial deposits covering these rocks are generally gravel, sand, clay, marl, and peat. There are many mosses in the parish, in some of which are found excellent shell-marl and peat. Decayed trees are often found imbedded in these mosses, as also horns of the deer species and of other animals, which, from the size of the bones, seem to have been of a species distinct from any of those of the present day.

The soil in the vale of Borthwick is of good quality. Upon the ascents on each side of the water it becomes thinner, gravelly, and dry. Towards the summits of the hills, it is wet and boggy,—especially in the western part of the parish.

Zoology—In most of the lakes are found abundance of perch, pike, and eel, and where the pike is not found, there is abundance of excellent trout. During the spawning season, great quantities of sea trout, grilse, or young salmon come up the Borthwick and Ale. The spawning season in the Tweed is perhaps more early than that of its tributary streams; but this may be owing to the shallowness of the latter. It is during the autumnal floods that the greatest quantities of fish come up. They commence their run upwards about the end of October, and continue coming and going with the floods during the winter season; and some lingering ones are caught so late as April; but these are in a very exhausted state, and not good for food.

A certain grub has of late years done considerable damage both to crops and pasture in this neighbourhood. As an instance, it may be noticed that about ten acres of pasture were destroyed by it upon the farm of Todshawhaugh. This pasture first lost its verdure, and then became quite brown. On pulling up a handful of the withered grass or moss, a number of these insects were seen. They were of a dirty whitish-colour, of the shape of the common caterpillar, but rather thicker and shorter. The crows at last discovered them, and made great havoc amongst them,—literally pulling up every stem of grass, in order to reach them. Latterly the appearance of the ground was almost that of ploughed land covered with withered grass.

Botany.—Medicinal Plants.—*Acorus calamus* ; carminative and stomachic. *Adiantum capillus veneris* ; used for preparing the syrup called Capillaire. *Agrimonia Eupatoria* ; slightly styptic and astringent. *Artemisia vulgaris* ; anthelmintic, stimulant, detergent, and sudorific. *Cynoglossum officinale* ; astringent, inspissant. *Digitalis purpurea* ; sedative and diuretic. *Rubus chamaemorus* ; refrigerant, antiscorbutic. *Vaccinium Myrtillus* ; refrigerant, astringent. *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* ; refrigerant. *Vaccinium Vitis Idea* ; refrigerant, antiseptic.

There are a number of thriving plantations in the parish. The kinds of timber which predominate at present are the larch, spruce, and Scotch fir ; but considerable quantities of these are, by the annual thinnings sold off, and the hard-wood, such as oak, ash, elm, plane, and beech, are gaining the ascendancy. In many places, the firs are nearly thinned out, and the hard-wood trees are shooting up beautiful trunks. There is also a considerable quantity of old timber in the parish, especially at Borthwickbrae. Most of the plantations are upon the estates of Borthwickbrae, Chisholme, Borthwickshiels, Hoscoat, and Harden. Upon the Duke of Buccleuch's estate, which forms half the parish, there are scarcely any plantations.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The land-owners are, the Duke of Buccleuch ; R. Chisholme, Esq. of Chisholme ; Allan Elliott Lockhart, Esq. of Borthwickbrae ; Hugh Scott, Esq. of Harden ; George Pott, Esq. of Borthwickshiels ; Thomas Stavert, Esq. of Hoscoat ; Archibald Scott, Esq. of Howcleuch ; James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva ; Robert Pringle, Esq. of Clifton, M. P. ; and Charles Rid-dell, Esq. of Muselee.

Parochial Registers.—There are some registers which go back as far as the year 1680, but they are neither voluminous nor regularly kept. They have also suffered much from decay and from damp. One small record of the births and marriages of Hassen-dean parish is still preserved.

Antiquities.—There are a number of ancient camps in the parish,—some of these of a square,—others of an oval shape. One of them is situated upon the farm of Highchesters. This camp, as the name indicates, is on an elevated piece of ground, and commands an extensive view. The largest and most complete camp is upon the farm of Broadlee, to the west of the parish. There are two others upon the farm of Todshawhill, one upon the farm of

Todshawhaugh; and another upon the lands of Borthwickshiels called *Camp Castle*. The name generally given to these camps by the common people is that of the *Pict's* or *Peoch's* works. A ball of about one and a-half pound weight was lately found near one of these, and in another some daggers in a very decayed state.

The old mansion-house of Harden, the ancient abode of the Scotts of Harden, is a place which still excites considerable curiosity. The carved stucco work upon the ceiling of the old hall is well worth attention. The lobby is paved with marble, and the mantel-piece of one of the rooms is surmounted with an Earl's coronet, and the letters W. E. T. wreathed together, signifying "Walter Earl of Tarras,"—a title borne in former times by the house of Harden. This mansion-house was formerly fortified by art, and is still so, in some parts, by nature. In front of the house, there is a deep glen, very precipitous on both sides, but both sides are covered with beautiful trees. Into this glen, it is said, that Wat of Harden, a well-known border chieftain, used to drive the cattle which he had carried off in his nightly raids. From one of these excursions, an infant was brought home. He was fostered by Mary Scott, at that time Lady of Harden, and a descendant of the lady of that name commonly called the Flower of Yarrow. This unknown child is supposed to have been the author of many of the border songs.*—See Leyden's "Scenes of Infancy," and "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border."

* Dr Leyden alludes to this tradition in the following beautiful lines, from "The Scenes of Infancy."

"What fair half-vail'd leans from her lattic'd hall,
Where red the waving gleams of torch light fall?
'Tis Yarrow's flower, who thro' the gloom,
Looks wishful for her lover's dancing plume.
Amid the piles of spoil that strew'd the ground,
Her ear all anxious caught a wailing sound;
With trembling haste the lovely nymph then flew,
And from the plunder'd heaps an infant drew!
Scar'd at the light, his feeble hands he flung
Around her neck, and to her bosom clung;
While beauteous *Mary* sooth'd in accents mild
His fluttering soul, and kissed her foster child.
Of milder mood the gentle captive grew,
Nor lov'd the scenes that scar'd his infant view;
In vales remote from camps and castles far,
He shunn'd the cruel scenes of strife and war.
Content the loves of simple swains to sing,
Or wake to fame the harp's heroic string;
He liv'd o'er Yarrow's fairest flower to shed a tear,
And strew the holly leaves o'er Harden's bier;
But none was found above the minstrel's tomb,
Emblem of peace, to bid the daisy bloom;
He, nameless as the race from whence he sprung,
Sung other names, and left his own unsung."

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-houses of Borthwickbrae, Chisholme, Borthwickshiels, and Hoscoat, are excellent modern buildings: and some of the farm-houses are little inferior. Indeed, none of the late improvements is more striking than the excellent farm-houses that have been erected. Almost all of them are new, or have undergone a thorough repair since the former Statistical Account was written. The manse underwent a thorough repair four years ago. The church is old, but in good repair, and well accommodated to its purposes. It bears the inscription of 1659. Roberton was erected into a parish about that date. Hassendean, the old parish, about nine miles lower down the country, was annexed to Minto and Wilton. Roberton was erected from parts of the parishes of Hawick, Selkirk, Wilton, and Hassendean. *

The remains of two chapels can still be traced,—one of these upon the farm of Chapelhill, where curates from Hassendean used to officiate; the other, said to have belonged to the diocese of Galloway, is at Borthwickbrae, where the chief burial-place of the parish still is. The families of the Potts and Grieves are buried here.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| The population by the return to Dr Webster was, in 1755, 651 | | | |
| In 1791 and 1792, | - | - | 629 |
| 1811, | - | - | 558 |
| 1821, | - | - | 674 |
| 1831, males 360, females, 370 | - | - | 730 |

There is one village which has sprung up within these few years, called Deanburnhaugh, in which there are 100 inhabitants.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| The average number of births for the last 7 years, | - | - | 13 |
| deaths, | - | - | 7 |
| marriages, | - | - | 7 |
| The average number of persons, in 1831, under 15 years of age, was | - | - | 275 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | - | - | 232 |
| 30 and 50, | - | - | 124 |
| 50 and 70, | - | - | 81 |
| upwards of 70, | - | - | 18 |

* From the inscription on the church bell, it appears to have belonged to Melrose tolbooth. Tradition says, that when the church was removed from Hassendean, the people in that quarter were highly incensed, and made great opposition to the measure. The first of the workmen who mounted the ladder to unroof the old church was struck with a stone, which killed him. The ladies also showed much zeal in defending the kirk; and there is an old ditty, which arose out of the transaction, still sung in the neighbourhood.

There are three wives in Hassendean,
And three in Briery-yards,
They are a' way to Hassendeanburn,
And left both wheel and cards, &c.

Whilst the parishioners of Roberton were moving off with all that was portable of the old church, the Hassendean people followed, and a scuffle ensued at a place called Hornshole, about two miles below Hawick. Here the enraged Hassendean folk seized upon the church bell, and cast it into the pool, where it still remains.

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| The number of families of independent fortune residing in the parish, | - | 4 |
| proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, | - | 9 |
| unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | - | 9 |
| unmarried women upwards of 45 years of age, | - | 21 |
| families, | - | 131 |
| The average number of members in each family, | - | 5½ |
| The number of inhabited houses, | - | 121 |
| uninhabited houses, | - | 2 |

Curling has become a very prevalent amusement here ; as also coursing the hare, both with the greyhound and harriers.

Character, &c. of the People.—The character of the inhabitants is generally moral and religious, and their habits cleanly. The general appearance of the cottages does not correspond to that of the farm-houses ; but a better style in erecting these is yearly gaining ground, and there is a considerable ambition amongst the peasantry to have neat houses. Their ordinary food is barley, and a small portion of wheaten bread, oat-meal porridge, broth and butcher-meat occasionally, fish, butter, cheese, potatoes, milk, and tea.

Poaching was lately carried on to a great excess in this parish and neighbourhood, not, indeed, by the people resident in the parish, but very generally by the operatives of the manufacturing towns, especially when trade was slack. Formerly, the poachers used singly to seek the game, and generally fled when they saw any person approaching them, or at least walked off the ground when desired. But of late years they banded together, and daringly set the keepers at defiance. The farmer and his shepherd were often insulted, and sometimes the gun was cocked in their faces ; but it fared much worse with the gamekeepers, as they seldom returned home without personal injury. Bands of these modern freebooters, for they were generally the very scum of society, would sometimes take up their residence in some outhouse or fold in the moors, and continue there for weeks at a time,—living on such provisions as could be had. Instances are known of their taking and roasting sheep. About two years ago, when matters were at the worst, the landed proprietors, along with some farmers, their servants, and a few energetic constables, attacked them. Upon one occasion, in particular, about twenty of these poachers were congregated round a corn field, then recently cut, where they killed the game in great abundance. In this situation, the constables and farm-servants set upon them, and took them all prisoners. A few of the more notorious of these poachers, against whom warrants had been obtained, were pinioned and carried off to jail. Since that time there has not been much poaching.

'Of late years there has not been much killing of fish. The gentlemen certainly do not countenance it; neither do they punish it, unless when the trespassers are brought before them in a Justice of Peace court. Indeed, their too scrupulously protecting the fish in our highland streams would only be conferring a bounty on the good citizens of Berwick, at the expense of depriving their own peasantry of a very savoury morsel to their often scanty potato supper on winter evenings.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of acres, imperial measure, in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is about 2000; but a much greater quantity than that has been formerly cultivated. The number of acres uncultivated, and which form the sheep-walks, is very great,—perhaps about 28,000. All the land that can with a profitable application of capital be cultivated has been so already. Indeed, it may be questioned whether a quantity of that at present in tillage might not be more profitably untilld. The number of acres under plantation is about 550; and great care is taken in the management of the plantations.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is about 15s. per acre; and the average rate of grazing, at the rate of L. 4, or L. 4, 10s. per ox or cow, and 7s. per ewe.

Rate of Wages.—The daily rate of labour in summer is about 2s. and 2s. 6d., and in winter 1s. 8d. or 1s. 10d. Women in summer receive 10d., except in harvest, when their wages are nearly equal to those of men. The wages of a ploughman, who receives his victuals in his master's house, are from L. 8 to L. 10, 10s., and those of a servant girl from L. 6 to L. 7, 10s.

Stock.—The common breed of cattle is the short-horned; and the number of cattle, including Highland kyloes, not bred in the parish, is about 700; of horses, old and young, 130.

There are about 19,000 sheep in the parish, which produce about 2800 stones of wool, Troy weight. The common breeds of sheep are the Cheviot, more or less crossed with the Leicester ram, and a few hirsels of the black-faced kind. Great attention is paid to their improvement. It is a very prevalent and profitable custom to cross the Cheviot ewe with the bred ram. The mixed offspring is a very heavy lamb,—much heavier for the English butcher markets than the pure Cheviot one. The wool is also much improved both in weight and quality. Some farmers have of late years allowed their flocks to go partially unsalved; but the unsalved wool,

though higher in price, is considerably reduced in quantity and weight. These circumstances, and the risk of the sheep catching a prevalent disorder, perhaps nearly overbalance the profit. The farmers who follow this practice engage in it with misgivings and a suspicion in their own minds as to its propriety; and certainly their neighbours, who do not follow the custom, have a great jealousy against it.

Of late years, a considerable number of kyloes, bought at the Falkirk trysts, have been wintered in the parish. It is considered by some, that the putting of a certain number of cattle upon the sheep pastures is not only profitable, but also advantageous to the sheep. The experiment seems at least a reasonable one, as one species of stock may feed, in a great measure, upon the herbage and grasses which another passes over. However, there are different opinions on the subject, and the real sheep-breeders do not seem much to relish the custom.

Husbandry.—The general character of the husbandry pursued is the five-shift rotation. The duration of leases is generally 7, 9, and 11 years. The farm-buildings are good. The enclosures are generally hedges near the water side, and dry-stone dikes in the higher grounds; but several of the sheep-farms have, as yet, no ring fences.

Among the principal improvements, that have been recently made, are the introduction of lime and bone dust; but the greatest is certainly the sheep drains. These are mostly surface drains. They have the effect of drying the meadows and marshy land,—by which means the grass becomes much finer and thicker. They have likewise been the means of curing several disorders among the sheep, such as rot.

The disorder which commits the greatest depredations in this neighbourhood, is the *louping ill*. This disorder has as yet baffled all skill: and it often commits great havoc among the sheep in the spring season. What renders it still more formidable is, that it does not carry off the weaker sheep, but very generally seizes the best. The shepherd often passes, on his morning round, a fine healthy ewe, and in the evening finds her a victim to this mischievous disorder. Upon a farm of between forty and fifty score, sometimes there will be deaths to the amount of seven or eight score. The disorder has all the appearance of a palsy, only, that that disorder amongst the human species is generally incident to age, whereas among sheep the disorder in question seems to carry

off old and young indiscriminately. There are a number of other disorders incident to the sheep and stock in this part of the country, but none of these are of a very deadly nature.

The Pastoral Society of Selkirkshire has had considerable influence in improving the breeds of both cattle and sheep. Many of the farmers of this parish are members of it.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or domestic animals, | L. 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| Of potatoes, turnips, &c. | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| Of hay, meadow and cultivated, | 1200 | 0 | 0 |
| Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 4 per cow, or full-grown ox, grazed, and 7s. per ewe pastured for year, | 9000 | 0 | 0 |
| Of gardens, | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinnings of plantations, annual, | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Wool, 2800 stones at L. 1, | 2800 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous, not enumerated in the above heads, | 300 | 0 | 0 |

Total yearly value of raw produce,* L. 16,130 0 0

The old valued rent of the parish is L. 10,654, 10s. 10d. The real rental at present is about L. 6500.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—Hawick, at a distance of three miles from the lower, and fifteen, from the higher parts of the parish, is the nearest market-town; and there is a daily communication by carriers. The length of turnpike roads in the parish is nearly twenty miles.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, situated in the lower part of the parish, which is most populous, is perhaps scarcely so convenient to the population as another spot, that might have been chosen; but no person who is willing to go to the house of God has much reason to complain. It is three miles from the lower, and ten from the higher extremities of the parish, and nearly in the centre of the bulk of the population. It was probably built, as the inscription upon it imports, in 1659. It affords accommodation to about 250 persons. The manse was repaired in 1827. The extent of the glebe is 16 acres, and its value about L. 20 per annum. The boundary betwixt Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire divides the glebe in such a manner, as to entitle the minister to a vote in each county. The amount of stipend is 14 chalders, a considerable part of which is paid from lands lying in the parishes of Wilton and Minto. It is twenty years since any augmentation was obtained.

* The above estimate is given with much doubt; and it is thought that, if there be any error, it will be in making the amount too great.

The number of families which attend the Established church is about 112; and of individuals, old and young, about 626. The number of Dissenting families is about 19; and of individuals, old and young, about 104. Divine service is well attended. The average number of communicants is about 200. There is a Missionary society in the parish; but it is rather in a languishing state. Its yearly contributions may be about L. 3.

Education.—There is one parochial school. The branches taught are, reading, at 8s. per annum; reading and writing, 10s.; arithmetic, 12s.; mensuration, &c.; Latin. The salary is the maximum, and the yearly amount of fees received may be L. 24. The teacher has the legal accommodations; but the school has been for ten years by far too small. A splendid new school-house and schoolmaster's house are nearly finished. About one-third of the parish is so situated that children cannot attend the parish school. These are at a distance of five and eight miles.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 15, and their annual average pay L. 5, 4s. The amount raised by assessment—one-half upon the heritors, and the other half upon the tenants—is about L. 100; and that collected in church is about L. 10. There are individual cases where considerable reluctance is shown in the asking of aid; but this laudable spirit, it is feared, is on the decline.

Alehouse.—There is one alehouse in the parish. Formerly there were two; but one of them was suppressed, as it gave encouragement to tippling, and harboured poachers.

Fuel.—The common fuel is peat, which can be obtained in abundance at about 5s. 6d. a cart load, and coals at about 15s. per cart load of 11 and 12 cwt.

November 1834.

PARISH OF SOUTHDEAN.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. JOHN RICHMOND, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE parish is called indiscriminately Southdean or Charters. The upper district is more properly than the other parts called Southdean,—a name supposed to be derived from its having been the south valley or dean of the once celebrated Jed Forest.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The extent of the parish is about 13 miles in length, and 7 in breadth. It is bounded on the S. by Northumberland, and partly by Liddesdale; S. W. and W. by the parishes of Hobkirk and Bedrule; N. E. and E. by Jedburgh and Oxnam.

In a parish of so great extent, it may well be expected that there will be a considerable diversity of soil. The lower parts consist generally of gravel, light black earth, and in some parts a strong clay. Along the river Jed, gravel prevails, inclining to heath. Towards the hills, and upon them, light earth, moss, and strong clay are prevalent. The arable part of the parish is now considerably extended.

Climate, &c.—The climate varies greatly. While the upper part of the parish is cold and stormy, the lower is sheltered and mild. It is, however, throughout its whole extent remarkably healthy. There is at present one person upon the pauper list, considerably above ninety. One also above that age died only a few months ago; and there are several others above eighty.

Diseases formerly prevalent in this district are now greatly mitigated, if not entirely removed. Those arising from dampness of climate, such as ague and rheumatism, have almost disappeared, owing, no doubt, to the extensive draining of sheep pasture, as well as the more general use of flannel. Typhus fever and inflammatory complaints have, however, proportionally increased.

Mineralogy.—In regard to minerals, it may be observed, that a seam of antimony was discovered many years ago on the estate of Abbotrule, but after several attempts to work it, it was ultimately

abandoned. Coal has also been searched for on this side of the border hills, but hitherto without success. Strong symptoms have indeed been discovered of coal being at no great distance, yet they were not such as to warrant expensive experiments. Fresh attempts are at present making to procure coal on the lands of Lord Douglas, and I believe with some hope of success, though the result is not yet ascertained.

Trees, &c.—There is a hawthorn tree in a garden here, which, on account of its great size, connected with other circumstances, is worthy of notice. The proportions of it are as follows:—Root, 5 feet, 2½ inches; centre, 4 feet, 7½ inches; below branches, 6 feet, 2 inches; mean girth, 5 feet, 4 inches; principal branches, first branch, 2 feet, 11 inches; second branch, 2 feet, 10 inches; mean girth, 5 feet, 9 inches.

One reason for mentioning this hawthorn tree is the very strong presumption that it existed in the days of James Thomson, the poet, who, as we have observed, spent on this spot a considerable period of childhood and of youth. This we are led to conclude from the very slow growth of the hawthorn, and the many days and years which must have passed before it could reach the size we have described. It therefore carries us back in imagination to the early days of the poet of Nature.

The remains of the ancient and extensive Jed forest are still visible in large oak trees laid bare by the action of the streams, and in the digging of deep ditches on various farms. One partly discovered in a water-course at the head of the Jed, was 3½ feet in diameter. What is further remarkable in this is, that it was found high up among the moors, where scarcely a shrub of the hardiest kind could now be expected to thrive.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY. *

Under this head, it may be remarked, that the Rev. Mr Veitch and Mr Bryson, as related by Dr M'Crie, found shelter among the

* In this country it is universally believed, that the original of Dandy Dinmont was the late Mr James Davidson, farmer of Hyndlee, whose enthusiastic love of the chase was so well known. Mr Davidson's terriers were designated by the names of Pepper and Mustard, long previous to the publication of the novel. The farm of Hyndlee, too, is situated in the pass which leads into Liddesdale to the wastes of Northumberland and Cumberland, through the latter of which Dandy and his young friend had to find their way from Carlisle, and in which they had so serious a encounter. Indeed, part of the present road from and to Liddesdale is called Note o' the Gate, the very spot specified by Sir Walter as having been passed over on their way to Dandy Dinmont's. Again, not many miles from Hyndlee, one of the farms at the head of Liddesdale is called to this day Thorleshope, evidently a corruption of Charleshope, mentioned in Guy Mannering as the residence of Dandy. All these circumstances, with his known character combined, leave no doubt that Mr Davidson was the original, in the eye of Sir Walter, in drawing the character of Dandy.

fastnesses at one of the extremities of this parish; and no place could be so well adapted for this purpose in the perilous and bloody times of the persecution of our church.

Antiquities.—Tumuli or cairns, formerly prevalent in this parish, have now almost disappeared. There are still the ruins (and some of these to a considerable extent) of ancient strongholds, or *peels*, as they are called. There remain, too, the sites of ancient encampments; which are of a circular form.

Eminent Men.—James Thomson, author of the Seasons, spent much of his childhood and youth in this parish. His father was minister of Ednam, near Kelso, at the time of the poet's birth, but was translated to Southdean two years after that event. His tombstone is still in this churchyard.

III.—POPULATION.

Since the beginning of last century, the population has greatly decreased; owing to the land being let in more extensive farms.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Population in 1801, - | 343 | 554 | 897 |
| 1811, - | 382 | 425 | 807 |
| 1821, - | 406 | 431 | 837 |
| 1831, - | 410 | 429 | 839 |
| Number of families in 1801, - | 146 | | |
| 1811, - | 146 | | |
| 1821, - | 147 | | |
| 1831, - | 142 | | |
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age is | - | - | 346 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | - | - | 201 |
| 30 and 50, | - | - | 170 |
| 50 and 70, | - | - | 99 |
| upwards of 70, | - | - | 28 |
| The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 64 |
| trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | 12 |

There are only four heritors in the parish, all of whom reside in it except Lord Douglas, the principal heritor, who keeps a resident factor on his property here. James Elliot, Esq. of Wolflee, and Robert Henderson, Esq. of Abbotsrule, are heritors to a pretty considerable extent, and both men of independent fortune.

Character, &c. of the People.—The character of the people is peaceable and religious. They are not given to poaching nor smuggling; but large and lawless bands of poachers have infested our moors for two years past. Our people are generally stout, healthy, and active.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—All kinds of grain are cultivated to a much greater extent than at the time of the last Statistical Account. From appearances, however, cultivation seems to have been more general in the higher parts of the parish, in

times long past, than even at present. This may have been owing to the lower ground having been more wooded and marshy, which would naturally constrain the people to cultivate the higher districts.

The number of acres under cultivation at this time may be reckoned at 3000. There are 500 acres under wood, natural and planted, principally pine.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land, per acre, is about 18s. The average rent of grazing, per ox or cow, 30s., and for ewe or full-grown sheep, 5s., pastured for the year. Valued rent of the parish is L. 6362; real, L. 6690, 9s. 6d. There are twenty larger and eighteen small tenants.

Husbandry.—The general duration of leases are from five to nineteen years. A good deal of wood has been planted of late, and considerable improvement has been made in farm-houses and the building of stone fences. Wheat is now pretty generally sown, especially in the lower parts of the parish; and turnip husbandry has been greatly extended since the beginning of this century. It has of late years been much injured by a disease, which throws out excrescences from the root, which entirely destroy the turnip. No effectual remedy has hitherto been discovered.

Live-Stock.—Since the close of the last century, considerable improvement has been made in the management of sheep. The land has been drained; plantations and tills have been reared for shelter, whilst farmers have vied with one another in selecting the best ewes and rams from their own flocks, or from those of their neighbours, from which they may breed. About twenty-eight years ago, a few long-woolled sheep were brought into the parish. They have increased with the extension of tillage, and now amount to at least 1600. There are about 15,100 of Cheviot sheep. In the year 1810, the current price of laid wool was L. 2, 6s. per stone of 24 lbs. One large clip was sold at L. 2, 10s.; the same parcel has several times since been sold at less than one-fourth of that sum. During the war, well salved wool was of as much value as white;—of course, all the Cheviot sheep were then smeared. With the peace, a change took place, and almost every person left off smearing till two years ago, when the demand for laid wool reviving, induced various individuals to have again recourse to tar and butter. Wool was much in request in 1831. White brought from L. 1, 3s. to L. 1, 7s., and laid from 18s. 6d. to L. 1, 1s. per stone, which was nearly double the price obtained for the latter sort in 1830. A large proportion of the wool grown in this quarter is now manufac-

tured at Hawick, Galashiels, and Jedburgh; formerly it went mostly to Yorkshire.

Within the last twenty years, black-cattle have been much better kept than used to be the case,—which, with the introduction of short-horned bulls from the south, has improved the breed in no ordinary degree. The cattle in the parish may be estimated at 390, and the horses at 145.

Quarries.—These consist, and in abundance, of red and white sandstone, the last of which is admirably adapted for ornamental buildings.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, (exclusive of pasture,) as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---|---|
| Corn, - - - | L. 3600 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips, 400 acres, at L. 4, | 1600 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes, 80 acres, at L. 7, | 560 | 0 | 0 |
| Natural or bog hay, - | 340 | 0 | 0 |
| Sown grass, - - - | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | L. 6300 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—Jedburgh, our nearest post-town, is distant ten miles. The inconvenience, however, is lessened by the recent improvement in the roads. The road passing between Hawick and Newcastle, is a great accommodation to this part of the country, as well as that between Jedburgh and Newcastle, both of which meet at the extremity of the parish. The coach, Chevy Chace, passes and repasses through Jedburgh between Edinburgh and Newcastle every day. It enters England at the Carter Bar. There is perhaps no entrance to Scotland more picturesque than the one of which we now speak. In this road from England, the border hills rise to a considerable height; and, as the first glimpse that is caught of Roxburghshire is from the top of the Carter, there is suddenly opened to the eye an extensive and beautiful landscape. In this landscape is comprehended, not only Roxburghshire, lying more immediately before us, with all its hills and dales, but also, though in the distance, many parts of Selkirkshire and Berwickshire. As the road descends, the view is naturally more limited, but not less beautiful. It varies along the banks of the Jed with every turning and winding of the stream. Its high and precipitous banks are everywhere clothed with wood, of oak, pine, and weeping birch. These, with dwelling after dwelling imbedded in its more sheltered nooks, present to the delighted traveller a rich variety of scenery. This view is no doubt greatly enhanced by the

uninteresting country which must be traversed before entering into Scotland.*

Ecclesiastical State.—The patronage of the parish is partly invested in the Crown, and partly in Lord Douglas. By a question raised at the death of the late incumbent, it is understood that his Lordship enjoys two returns in succession; the Crown one. This is owing to his Lordship having been patron of Southdean previous to the annexation of a portion of Abbotsrule, which was suppressed above fifty years ago, and of which the Crown was patron.

The stipend consists of 16 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley. There is a sum of L. 9, 14s. 6d. allotted for the provision of communion elements. The glebe is 40 acres in extent, and may be rented at L. 40 per annum. The church was built in the year 1690; it has, since that period, undergone many repairs, and it is now in excellent condition. The present manse was erected on the site of the old one in 1795. A considerable addition has been just completed, which renders it in every way a most excellent and commodious dwelling. There are about 30 families of Dissenters in the parish.

Education.—The school-room is in a tolerable state of repair. The schoolmaster is accommodated with a house and garden, and the salary is the maximum. His fees may amount to about L. 16 a-year. The average number of scholars is 67, the greater proportion of whom only attend reading, writing, and the more simple rules of arithmetic. There is no other school in the parish; but those who are too distant to attend here, are conveniently enough situated for attending schools in other parishes.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of paupers is 25. The whole rates amount to L. 160,—chiefly from assessment, but partly from church collections.

Inns.—There is but one alehouse in this parish, and that at the extremity of it, at the Carter toll-bar.

Fuel.—Coal is the principal fuel now in use. The nearest pit is fifteen miles distant. They are 7d. a bag, four and a-half of which make a cart load. The carriage to this place costs 6s. 6d. Peats are not so generally used as they once were, and turf is scarcely ever made use of now for fuel.

* It may be proper here to mention, as relating to this parish, that the scene of Reidswire, the last border battle, lies along the range of the Carter-hills, near the Carter Bar. These hills, by the last measurement, are computed to be 2020 feet above the level of the sea. The raid of Reidswire has been too often related to require any account of it here. It may be sufficient to refer to the description in the *Border Minstrelsy*, Vol. iii. p. 154.

Revised December 1834.

PARISH OF ST BOSWELL'S OR LESSUDDEN.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE RITCHIE, MINISTER. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN ecclesiastical records, this parish is generally designated St Boswell's, but elsewhere it is more usually named Lessudden. In point of fact, the one is the name of the parish, the other of a village, which occasionally gives its name to the parish, as containing the great bulk of the population. The church is supposed to derive its name from Boisel, a monk of Melrose, and subsequently Prior of the monastery,—the pious master of the celebrated St Cuthbert,—and, if not the founder, at least one of the earliest religious functionaries, of the parish. The saint lent his name to a village also, which seems to have been of considerable extent in its day, but of which now scarcely one stone remains on another.

Extent, Boundaries.—This parish is of small dimensions, being 3 miles in length by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and forming an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, of an oblong figure: it is bounded on the north by the river Tweed; on the east by the parish of Maxton; on the south by Ancrum; and on the west by Bowden and Melrose.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface in the upper portion of the parish is undulating, rising into ridges or small eminences, with hollows or flats intervening. The lower grounds, however, approaching the Tweed, are more free from inequalities. The banks of the river, with the exception of the north-east boundary, are bold, precipitous, and well-wooded. To the north of the village of Lessudden, there is an elevated ridge overlooking the Abbey of Dryburgh, embosomed in wood, and encircled by the Tweed, where the prospect in every direction embraces a variety of objects that can scarcely be rivalled in beauty and grandeur. Although this eminence is immediately adjoining

* Drawn up by the late Rev. Peter Craw, Minister of this parish.

to the village, yet, from the sudden acclivity of the ground, there are scarcely any of the houses in sight, with the exception of Lessuden Place,—an old border strength belonging to the Scotts of Raeburn, which forms an appropriate accompaniment of the scene.

From the range of hills and mountains both on the north and south, the climate is comparatively dry, and consequently healthy. The clouds coming either from the east or west, (and here the wind seldom blows directly from the north or the south,) range along the higher grounds, and pass over the intermediate flat lands in a rarer state. In dry seasons, this is often felt to an inconvenient degree. The high grounds in the neighbourhood are, on such occasions, plentifully watered, while our fields are parched, and our crops languish.

Hydrography.—The Tweed is the only stream worthy of notice connected with this parish, of which it forms the boundary for upwards of two miles on the north and east.—The springs are all perennial,—so far intermittent, however, that many of them, in dry seasons, cease about the beginning of autumn. Near the village of Lessudden, where the soil is of a retentive nature, incumbent on what is here called *till*, gravel imbedded in clay,—springs are scarce, and the water indifferent. All the other parts of the parish are plentifully supplied with water of the purest quality. Around the glebe, in particular, to the east and south, there is an immense profusion of springs of the finest quality. The springs issue from a seam of gravel incumbent on freestone rock of a reddish colour: and many of them are strongly impregnated with lime, to which they owe their petrifying quality, which is common to all along the east bank, and to some in a very remarkable degree. There is also “the well brae wall,” a chalybeate that has attracted some notice, from its reputed virtues in scorbutic complaints. From the south bank, again, issues the Hier, or sacred well, vulgarly called the Hare well. This well also still bears the name of the saint, and is situated farther to the west, on the same side of the ravine through which flows St Boswell's burn, receiving, in its progress to the Tweed, contributions from the “well brae.”

Geology and Mineralogy.—On this head, it may be only remarked, that the soil in general consists of a stiff clay; in the neighbourhood of the church, of a black loam; and in the haughs adjoining the Tweed, it is alluvial. The soil rests upon a mass of clay mixed with boulders of whinstone and gravel of considerable thickness, indicating the presence of some great current.

The predominating rock is red sandstone, a good building stone. From the section of a quarry in the parish, it seems to rest upon a bed of whitish sandstone of some thickness. This variety possesses considerable hardness, and is much impregnated with iron pyrites, as it assumes a dingy yellow colour after a short exposure to the atmosphere. There are several appearances of trap tuffa in the parish. An attempt was made several years ago to find coal, but without success.

Zoology.—As there is nothing peculiar to the parish under this head, it may be only remarked, that the fruit trees, which suffer more or less every season, were last spring almost wholly stripped of their foliage by the caterpillar (the *Tortrix padella*,) for the ravages of which no practical remedy has hitherto been applied.

The soil seems well adapted to all the ordinary kinds of forest trees. On the estate of Ellieston, there are some of the finest larch trees in the south of Scotland; none, however, of a very uncommon size.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners, in the order of the rates of their valued rents, are, Robert Tulloch, Esq. of Ellieston; Alexander Kay, Esq. of Charlesfield; Thomas W. Ramsay, Esq. of Maxton; William Scott, Esq. of Raeburn; Captain Riddell Carr, of Camieston; His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Adam White, Esq. of Fens; and Sir David Erskine of Dryburgh Abbey; and eight other proprietors, all having landed properties of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest parochial register commences in 1691; but the registers are neither voluminous, nor regularly kept.

Modern Buildings.—His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch has recently erected a very handsome hunting establishment to the north of St Boswell's Green, which forms the only modern building of a public nature (with the exception of the church) deserving to find a place in this description.

III.—POPULATION.

There is every reason to believe that the population of this parish is at present greater than ever it was at any former period. This opinion is fully borne out by the following statement:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|
| Population in 1755, | - | 309 |
| 1791, | - | 500 |
| 1801, | - | 497 |
| 1831, | - | 701 |

The increase of population is chiefly to be ascribed to agricultural improvements, producing an increased demand for labourers; and these in their turn requiring additional artisans for domestic manufactures.

The hunting establishment of the Duke of Buccleuch, which has not yet had time to produce its full effect, will in all likelihood have a favourable influence on the population, from an increased circulation of money. Already the benefits arising from this establishment have begun to be felt in the increased facility which it presents to the agriculturists of selling their disposable produce in corn and hay. These causes combined, have raised the number of inhabitants residing in the village to 433, leaving for the country 268.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Average number of births registered, | - | - | 14 |
| deaths, | - | - | 8 |
| marriages, | - | - | 9 |
| persons under 15 years of age, | - | - | 249 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | - | - | 208 |
| 30 and 50, | - | - | 115 |
| 50 and 70, | - | - | 116 |
| upwards of 70, | - | - | 13 |
| unmarried men, bachelors, & widowers, | - | - | 18 |
| women above 45, | - | - | 17 |

Character of the People.—The habits of the people, in regard to cleanliness, are decidedly and greatly improved, and, with a few exceptions, little seems to be wanting in that respect. At church there is generally an appearance of neatness and comfort; and, in some instances, a display of finery that would do little discredit to persons occupying a higher sphere in society. They enjoy in no common degree the comforts of social life; and never were the labourers and artisans in this parish better provided for than at present.

The people are, generally speaking, sensible and shrewd, having few means of acquiring, and little occasion for exhibiting, any remarkable degree of intellectual attainment. There are instances, however, that go to prove, that it is the want of time and opportunities of acquiring distinction in intellectual pursuits, and not the want of natural ability, that prevents a more striking developement of their mental powers. They may be morally characterized as sober, industrious, friendly and obliging in their manners, peaceable in their behaviour, and honest in their dealings.

Offences against the law, either in poaching or smuggling, are scarcely known among us.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The whole land in the parish amounts to 2600

acres imperial, all arable, or capable of being made so, with the exception of about 25 acres of precipitous banks on Tweed, and the rivulets that run into it: and it is all occasionally under the plough, except St Boswell's Green, a divided common of about 40 acres,—the lord of the manor retaining the right of holding a fair annually over the whole of the common. The land under plantation extends to 175 acres.

The trees generally planted are the Scotch fir, larch, spruce, and silver-fir: the hard-wood, oak, ash, elm, birch, plane, and horse-chestnut. As the plantations advance, the Scotch fir is first taken out, then the spruce, and lastly, the larch, to make room for the hard-wood. On the Ellieston estate, where the greatest extent of plantation is found, the greater part of the Scotch firs have been displaced, and the oaks, constituting a large proportion of the hard-woods, being of seventy years growth, affords an abundant supply of excellent timber, and of a size fit for any use to which this species is usually applied. On the estate of Camiesticton also, there is a considerable extent of plantation, and wood of excellent quality and considerable dimensions. The wood on that part of the Maxton estate included in this parish, planted twenty-two years ago, has made the most rapid progress, and forms the chief ornament of the lower division of the parish around the church and manse. It is a difficult matter to ascertain, with any degree of accuracy, the annual amount of sales of wood, from the ever-varying state of supply and demand. As nearly as can be ascertained, the sales amount to L. 150 per annum.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 4s. 2d. per imperial acre. The grazing of a full-grown cow or ox is L. 3, 3s. for the summer; and for winter keep on straw and turnips, L. 2, 2s. The general rate for a ewe or full-grown sheep grazed for the year, is 14s.

Husbandry.—The general system of husbandry pursued in the parish is the four shift. 1st, Fallow, turnips or potatoes; 2d, wheat, barley, or oats; 3d, grass either cut for hay or pastured for one year; 4th, generally oats. On the land of better quality near the village, there is sometimes a deviation from this routine: and it is not uncommon to take a crop of drilled beans or pease after the oats and apply manure, followed by wheat or barley. In some of the leases lately entered into, the five-shift rotation is prescribed, requiring two successive years in grass. This is certainly more favourable for the land, and perhaps little disadvantageous to the

occupier, the former system requiring the application of more dung than can be readily procured : and lime, from its great distance, entails always a heavy and sometimes a ruinous expense on the tenant. These reasons have led, for the two last seasons, to the application of bone-manure to turnips, and this substitute has been found on the whole to be attended by a very favourable result, although it is alleged that it does not succeed so well on wet soils when the season is damp. The use of this manure, if it shall be found ultimately to realize the expectations which are now entertained of its efficacy, will be of great advantage to agriculture in this part of the country, from the comparatively trifling expense at which it can be laid down on the land, (22s. 6d. a quarter,) and the small quantity required per acre, (two quarters being the usual allowance to the imperial acre). As a great proportion of the land in the parish is a stiff clay on a retentive bottom, draining is an improvement of the first importance. Much has already been done in this way, and more would be done if proprietors were a little more liberal in their encouragement to the skilful and industrious tenant.

Little has been done in the way of embanking. Two embankments, however, of considerable extent, along the Tweed, have been constructed during the last season ; the one on Mr White's farm of Fens, and the other on Mr Ramsay's farm of St Boswell's. The general duration of leases is for nineteen years.

The farm-houses and steadings on the larger farms are in general good and commodious ; on the smaller, both are very indifferent, and no way suitable to the farms. The fences in the parish (which is all enclosed) consist of thorn hedges, in general well kept.

The chief obstacle to the improvement of land here is, the great distance from lime,—not less than twenty-six miles. A single horse cartful, containing twelve bushels, costs, when laid down on the land, 13s. which, at the rate of eight cartfuls, the quantity usually applied to the acre, occasions an expense of L. 5, 4s. This heavy expense can only be alleviated by increased facilities for land-carriage. A rail-road either from Dalkeith to Galashiels, or from Berwick to St Boswell's Green, both of which lines have been surveyed and favourably reported of, would greatly tend to the improvement of land, the increase of manufactures, and the rise of rents. Another obstacle to the improvement of land, greatly, and, we believe, justly, complained of is, the practice but too common of advertising and letting land to

the highest offerer, without due regard being had to his circumstances, provided he agree to an extravagant rent, which a man that has little or nothing to lose will not scruple to offer. The working of this system is extremely injurious to the proprietor, and to honest men of some capital, who really intend to pay the rent for which they stipulate. The tenant enters on possession, and perhaps struggles on for a year or two, applies for a reduction of rent, which must be conceded, or the farm again brought into the market in a deteriorated state. If the reduction is sufficiently great to enable him to exist, he may languish on to the end of the lease, if not, he must relinquish the lease after he has ruined the land, and, in either case, the farm must be re-let at a rent far inferior to what a good substantial tenant would have originally promised and paid during the currency of a long lease.

Produce—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish annually may be as follows.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|----|----|
| Wheat crop, | - | - | - | - | - | L. 2,847 | 13 | 7½ |
| Barley, | - | - | - | - | - | 1,298 | 5 | 0 |
| Beans and pease, | - | - | - | - | - | 862 | 0 | 5 |
| Oats, | - | - | - | - | - | 2,551 | 10 | 0 |
| Clover hay, | - | - | - | - | - | 364 | 10 | 0 |
| Pasture land, valuing the ox or cow's and sheep's grass as formerly stated, | - | - | - | - | - | 516 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | - | - | - | - | - | 924 | 0 | 0 |
| Gardens and orchards, | - | - | - | - | - | 76 | 0 | 0 |
| Produce of timber and annual thinning of plantations, | - | - | - | - | - | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Total amount, | | | | | | L. 9,589 | 19 | 0¼ |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Melrose, distant nearly five miles.

Villages.—The plough occasionally turns up the hearth or foundation stones of the ancient village of St Boswell's, which long since, like the hands that raised it, has crumbled into dust, with scarcely a memorial of its former existence. The village of Lessudden lies about three quarters of a mile to the north-west, and can boast of considerable antiquity. But, what is of much greater consequence to the present generation, nothing can exceed the amenity of its situation, and the salubrity of its air. It derives its name from Edwin, the celebrated sovereign of Northumberland, or more probably from some earlier prince of the same name, who had formed a settlement here and built a fortlet. In the former Statistical Account, the name is said to have been given to this village by Bishop Aidan, whose place, *Less* or *Lis*, it was. But the chartularies of the twelfth, and the two following centuries, as cited by Chalmers, (*Caledonia*, Vol. ii.

p. 180,) all spell the name of the village Lessedwin, Lessadwin, or Lessedewyn, *i. e.* the manor place of Edwin. During the reign of William the Lion, Robert de Loudonia, the lord of the manor, granted to the monks of Dryburgh the church of Lessedwin, for the safety of the souls of his king, of his father, Richard de Loudonia, and his mother, Matildis de Ferrers.* In 1221, Lessedwin was settled by Alexander II. on Johanna, his queen, as part of her jointure. Robert I. granted to the monks of Melrose the lands of Lessedwin. The English of the middle march, on the 5th of November 1544, burnt Lessedwin, wherein was sixteen strong bastel houses, slew several of the owners, and destroyed much corn.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication are most abundant; the post-office communicating with Kelso and Melrose once a-day; a daily coach from Newcastle to Edinburgh; a coach every alternate day from Jedburgh to Edinburgh, (except Sundays); a daily coach during the summer and autumn, and in winter thrice a-week, from Kelso to Glasgow; two carriers weekly to Kelso and Selkirk, and one to Edinburgh weekly.

The length of turnpike-roads is inconsiderable: the Jedburgh turnpike $1\frac{1}{2}$, Kelso $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Selkirk $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The bridges are four, on a small scale, but in excellent repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated near the eastern boundary of the parish, and consequently three miles distant from the population residing at the other extremity: but as the population there is scanty, and the great bulk of the inhabitants reside in the village of Lessudden, or in the immediate vicinity of the church, it cannot be said to be inconveniently situated for the great body of the people. From a stone in the front, it would appear that the present church, (which is situated a little to the west of the site, still discernible, of a more ancient fabric,) was built in 1652; although it is possible this stone may have belonged to the former place of worship. The present building was thoroughly repaired in 1791, enlarged in 1824, and now forms a commodious place of worship. It is understood to accommodate about 300 persons. There are not more than half a dozen of free sittings,—by which are meant sittings set apart for the poor. In a certain sense they are all free, seat-rent being wholly unknown. Number of families belonging to the Established church, 118; of persons, 615; of Dissenters, 86, including children. The number of communicants ranges from

* Chron. Dryburgh, No. 39-41.—Ry. i. 252, Rob. Index Bord. Hist. Cited by Chalmers.

220 to 234. Average amount of collections, L. 17, 0s. 10½d.: occasional donations L. 9, 18s. 4d.; proclamations, 11s. 0½d.; and mortcloth money 16s.; total, L. 28, 7s. There are only two instances on record of important benefactions, and both by the same individual, Robert Scott, Esq. late of Penang. 1st, A donation of L. 100 Sterling, the interest of which is to be applied for the relief of indigent persons belonging to the parish: the trustees are his brother, the present laird of Raeburn, and the minister of the parish. 2d, Mr Scott last year invested the property of a field in the vicinity of the village, amounting to about 5 acres, in the heritors of the parish possessed of L. 100 Scots valuation, and the minister,—the proceeds to be applied to the relief of indigent persons not on the poor's roll.

The manse and offices were built in 1791; but as the work had been executed in a very superficial manner, and on a defective plan, the heritors laid out a very considerable sum on repairs and additions in 1811. The whole is now in good condition. The extent of the glebe is 7 acres imperial; and the quality of the soil excellent; value L. 2, 10s. per acre. The stipend amounts to 15 chalders meal and barley, in equal portions, with L. 6, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Education.—There is but one school, in which the following branches are taught: English 2s. per quarter; writing 3s.; arithmetic, 4s.; book-keeping and practical mathematics, 5s.: Latin, Greek, and French, 6s. per quarter. The schoolmaster has the legal accommodation, and the minimum salary; the school fees average about L. 40 a-year.

Library.—A subscription library, instituted in 1799, under the patronage of Sir David Erskine, of Dryburgh Abbey, and now amounting to 1000 volumes, forms the only literary establishment in the parish.

Poor, &c.—Average number receiving aid 14, including children. Sum allowed to each per week, from 3s. 9d. to 1s. 6d. Average annual assessment for the poor, L. 62, 19s. 4d. Collections, &c. with occasional donations, L. 28, 7s. That spirit of honest pride and independence which formerly characterized our Scottish peasantry is rapidly diminishing, and the discredit once attached to pauperism has, in these times, been wiped away, as one of those antiquated prejudices that never had any rational foundation. There are, however, still some lingering remains of a better spirit.

Fair.—St Boswell's fair is the only one held in this parish:

it takes place on the 18th of July annually, or on the following Monday, if the 18th fall on a Sunday. When held on a Monday it is justly thought to occasion a most offensive desecration of the Lord's day; nor is this disgusting profanation at all diminished when the fair holds on a Saturday. This evil, so justly complained of, might be easily corrected by holding the fair on the third Wednesday or Thursday of the month. This fair is looked forward to with much excitement among the youthful population, and an immense concourse of people assemble from all quarters for business or amusement: and if the day is fine, St Boswell's Green presents on this occasion a very gay and animated scene. The whole space being planted with tents, covered with a profusion of goods, consisting of Scotch and Irish linen, hardware, toys, crockery, shoes, books, &c. or crowded with sheep, lambs, horses, and horned cattle. My predecessor estimates the amount of the money transactions of the day from L. 8,000 to L. 10,000, and the toll or custom, which belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch, at L. 38 on an average. This is probably not far from the truth, though it has been thought that this great fair has not of late been so numerously attended as in former years, owing to the number of other markets that have recently been established elsewhere for the sale of stock.

Fuel.—Coal is almost the only species of fuel used in this parish. There are no peats. Wood is scarce, and consequently high-priced. And when it is considered that we are equidistant from the Scotch and English collieries, it is manifest that the price of fuel must be high. Our coal is brought either from the neighbourhood of Dalkeith, or the collieries in Northumberland. The price, however, has for some years been greatly reduced. Coals from Vogrie, the species in highest estimation, used to cost from 18d. to 20d. a cwt. (the writer has paid as high as 1s. 10d.) but can now be bought for 1s. a-cwt. Lothian coals, and for 10d. a-cwt. from the English collieries.

Inns.—There are no fewer than six inns or alehouses in the parish, and without doubt, however well regulated, they present far too great a facility to dissipation; and unquestionably the number ought to be diminished.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The first most striking fact that occurs on comparing the former with the present Statistical Account of this parish, is the increase of the population, which has been considerably more than one-third in less than forty years. A second point of comparison,

scarcely less striking, is the amount of production, and the increased rental. The rental, including the annual sale of wood, (L. 150,) amounts to L. 3080, 4s. 2d. : in 1794, it is supposed to have been L. 1700,—there being thus a difference of L. 1380, 4s. 2d. When it is considered that prices are fully lower at present than they were then, the whole of the increased rental and production must be ascribed to improved cultivation.

The only other point of comparison deserving to be noticed is suggested by the great increase of the amount of money raised for support of the poor. The number of paupers has increased in a greater ratio than the population. The number on the roll in 1794 is stated to be only three; this, however, was the actual number enrolled for that year, and said to be fewer than usual. At present the number is fourteen, being nearly five to one. The amount of assessment, collections, &c. taken together, give L. 18, 12s. expended for the support of the poor at the former period. Now, the whole aggregate sum is L. 91, 6s. 4d. being nearly in the same ratio. These facts place in a striking point of view the strong tendency to increase which pauperism manifests wherever a legal assessment has been established. It would, however, be unfair to suppress some mitigating circumstances which tend to diminish the apparent difference between the former and present state of our parochial funds. In 1831 and 1832, the general average was greatly raised by an extraordinary expenditure, occasioned by the measures adopted to guard against the introduction of cholera. The precautions for these two years incurred an expense of not less than L. 60 for increased allowance, for food, fuel, and clothing,—medicine, and cleaning the village, and intercepting vagrants. The increased funds, arising from collections, donations, &c. have induced us to extend our aid beyond the range of actual pauperism, by a supply of coals, and occasional small donations to industrious families in distress, as well as to the enrolled poor. And the great bulk of the session funds is expended in this way annually.

Revised November 1834.

PARISH OF MAXTON.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. JOHN THOMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—MACCUS was a person of some note in the reign of David I. betwixt the years 1116 and 1147. His *tân* or manor was called Maccus-ton, afterwards Mackiston, and now Maxton.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish of Maxton is in figure nearly an oblong. Its extreme length is about 4 miles, and its greatest breadth nearly 3; but its square contents do not much exceed 7 miles. It lies on the south bank of the Tweed, and is one gentle slope towards that river, which runs $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles along its northern boundary. The parish of St Boswell's bounds it on the north-west, the parish of Ancrum on the west, and Roxburgh on the south and east.

Hydrography.—Except the Tweed there is not a stream in the parish; but there is no want of fine perennial springs,—though the inhabitants have not hitherto profited much by this circumstance, their habitations being in no instance placed within reach of them. The water commonly used is drawn from wells from fifteen to thirty feet deep; and having percolated through clay, the water is always very hard.

The Tweed runs here on a bed of reddish sandstone, which also makes its appearance in the steep banks, and serves for building, though much of it does not stand well exposure to the weather. Masses of whinstone rise in three or four places on the banks of the river; and in the southern parts of the parish, this stone abounds, both as rock and in rolled blocks on the surface, which make excellent road-metal, being excessively hard, and binding well when broken small.

Soil.—On many acres in the southern and highest part of the parish, the soil is thin, wet, and unproductive. The sub-soil is a stiff retentive till, mixed with stones. The northern, and by far the largest part, is of a much better quality, and bears heavy crops of

wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, clover, turnips, and potatoes. In the western half of this division, the soil is a rich clay-loam on a till bottom; in the eastern, it is light, sharp, and dry, on a free-stone or gravel bed.

Zoology.—About eighteen or twenty years ago, a small fly was first noticed in this part of the country very like the common house-fly, but somewhat lighter in the colour, and nimbler in its motions, and furnished with a long sharp proboscis, which it darts into the skin of men and animals in a moment, causing considerable pain. A silk or worsted stocking is no protection from its attacks. But troublesome as this little animal sometimes is, it is innocence itself compared with another, to whose insidious ravages we have now been exposed for several seasons, from about the middle of August till the end of harvest. This enemy is very small: when viewed by the microscope, it appears of a red colour, and resembles a spider in its form; but nobody can go among long grass or bushes after it comes, without being stung all over the body, particularly in those places where the clothes sit close to the person, so as to stop the creatures progress under them. Its wounds are not felt at the time they are inflicted, but the part soon becomes excessively itchy, swells to the size of a pea or bean, and continues to torment the victim for several days, or perhaps weeks. It is curious that there are some fields and districts in the neighbourhood where, it is said, this plague is not felt, though no plausible reason can be assigned for the fact.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The civil history of Maxton presents little that is interesting. Its origin may be traced to the beginning of the twelfth century. Towards the end of that century the monks of Melrose obtained from Robert de Berkely and his spouse “a caracute of land” in this parish, with certain privileges of pasture on the common, and fuel both from the *peataria* and the wood, “for the safety of many souls.” As a composition for the tithes of this land, the monks agreed to pay to the parson of Makiston four merks of silver yearly. Hugh de Normanville married Alice, the daughter and heiress of Robert de Berkely, and the line of the Normanvilles was continued through the thirteenth century. At a later period, the barony of Makiston, having been forfeited by William Soulis, was given by Robert I. to Walter, the steward of Scotland, who granted the patronage of his church, with five acres of arable land contiguous to the church, to the monks of

Dryburgh ; and from that time to the dissolution of their society at the Reformation, the parish continued to be a dependency of that monastery in spiritual matters. Robert II. granted the manor of Makiston to Sir Duncan Wallace and Eleanor de Brueys, the Countess of Carrick.

When Scotland was a separate kingdom, the village of Maxton seems to have contained a very considerable population,—being able, it is said, to turn out 1000 fighting men. If it really ever was a place of such magnitude, it seems probable that the people subsisted, like many other communities of the same kind on the border, by alternately plundering and smuggling in the richer kingdom of England. Both these sources of wealth were speedily dried up, however, by the union of the Scotch and English crowns,—an event which introduced law and regular industry among the border clans, and soon reduced their numbers to a correspondence with their honest means of subsistence. The village of Maxton is now reduced to a few miserable cottages. The only marks of its former consequence that remain, are the foundations of its houses, which are still occasionally turned up by the plough in several of the neighbouring fields, and the shaft of its ancient cross, which is yet standing in front of a few hovels, that mark the place where its principal street once was.

Land-owners.—I have not heard of any person connected with Maxton whose name is known to fame. There are no ancient families in the place. The present proprietors are: Sir Edmund Antrobus; Hugh Scott, Esq. of Harden; the Duchess of Roxburghe; Adam Walker, Esq. of Muirhouselaw; and Thomas Williamson Ramsay, Esq. of Maxton. All these, or their families, except the Duchess of Roxburghe, bought their properties in this parish within the last fifty years. None of them reside, or have a mansion-house in it, though the smallest proprietor, the Duchess of Roxburghe, has a rental in the parish of L. 250.

Parochial Registers.—There is a “session-record” in existence, and a “register of births, marriages, and deaths;” both of which begin more than a hundred years back, but they have been very irregularly kept. Among a small rural population of simple manners, there have been few events requiring to be noticed in the former volume; and the latter is necessarily very imperfect, in consequence of Seceders and others declining to register.

Antiquities.—In the north-east corner of the parish, is a rocky cliff hanging over the Tweed, on which there are distinct traces

of an ancient fort called, probably from its figure, Ringly Hall ; but whether this fortification is to be regarded as of British or Roman origin, is disputed by antiquaries. It is nearly in the form of a circle, with a diameter of about 160 feet, defended on the north by the precipitous rock on which it stands, and the Tweed which washes its base ; and on the other sides it is secured by two deep ditches, and ramparts of earth dug out of them. There appears to have been a gate on the east side, which faces a tumulus at no great distance, in the parish of Roxburgh, with which it was probably connected. The whole is now planted over with trees, which will no doubt have the effect of preserving this memorial of former times, for a while longer, from the ravages of the plough.

There is a tradition, that in one of the wars so frequently carried on by the sister kingdoms of Scotland and England, (but in which of them it is not said,) the English army occupied this station for several days, while the Scots lay on the opposite side of the river in a ravine, thence called " Scots Hole." The English at length, being superior in number, resolved to cross over to the enemy at a ford a little above this spot ; and the Scots having attacked them on a rising ground, (which is yet called the " Plea-brae,") and while part of the army was still entangled in the stream, an obstinate battle ensued, in which the English were beaten, and many of them slain. Their bodies were buried in consecrated ground at a place on the south bank, thence called Rutherford, because the Scots said their enemies had there been made to *rue their-ford*. This must be an old story, for Rutherford was a considerable village, and went by this name at least several centuries ago. Long before the Reformation this place, and the territory around it, formed a distinct parish, which had a church and an hospital of its own. Of these buildings there are now no remains ; but the churchyard, which had long ceased to be a burying-place, was ploughed up only about twenty-five years ago, and the grave-stones were broken and thrown into drains by an improving farmer. The patronage of Rutherford, which at one time belonged to the Earls of Douglas, was granted before the year 1483, by James Rutherford of that ilk ; but the church being afterwards suffered to go to ruin, the parish was united to Maxton, and the advowson fell into oblivion. The hospital was dedicated to St Mary Magdalene, and destined " for receiving strangers, and maintaining poor and infirm people." It was restored " to the master " by Edward I. in the year 1296,

and granted by Robert I. to the canons of Jedburgh, and this grant was confirmed by Robert II. in 1395.

About a mile to the west of the place where the village of Rutherford formerly was, stand the ruins of Littledean Tower, beautifully situated on a high bank of the river, and once a place of some strength. It was long the residence of the Kerrs of Littledean,—a family of some note on the borders; but it was finally deserted by them about a century ago, since which time it has fallen into complete decay.

On a high ridge between the parishes of Maxton and Ancrum was fought the battle of Ancrum muir, in which the Scots, under the Earls of Arran and Angus, obtained a great victory over the forces of Henry VIII., commanded by Sir Ralph Rivers and Sir Bryan Laiton. A young female, called Lilliard, fought on the side of the Scots, like another Joan of Arc, and fell in this battle. She was buried on the spot, and a stone erected over her remains, which is yet standing, and in homely rhymes commemorates her desperate valour and untimely fate. The place yet retains the name of Lilliard's Edge.

On the declivity of the hill, and near this place, are the vestiges of a Roman camp; and close by the west side of it, there passes a Roman road, which crosses the Tiviot near the mouth of Jed water, and the Tweed near Melrose. This road goes along the whole western boundary of the parish, and in one part of its course is very entire, and planted over with trees, though in another it is now nearly, or rather altogether, obliterated by the operations of agriculture.

III.—POPULATION.

It appears by the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, that the whole parish then contained only 397 souls. Twenty-seven years after, the number was reduced to 326. In 1801, the Parliamentary census states it at 368; in 1811, it was 438; in 1821, it had risen to 463; and in 1831, it was 461. As there are no towns, villages, manufactories, or employment of any kind but on the several farms, the increase of population after 1782 must have been owing to the improved and more extended cultivation of the soil which took place after that time, and particularly to the introduction of the turnip husbandry, which requires the assistance of more hands than were wanted on the old system. In 1831, of the 461 inhabitants of the parish, there were,

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Under 15 years, | - | - | - | - | 187 |
| Betwixt 15 and 30, | - | - | - | - | 135 |
| 30 and 50, | - | - | - | - | 88 |
| Betwixt 50 and 70, | - | - | - | - | 40 |
| 70 and 80, | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| Above 80, | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Unmarried bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years, | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| women upwards of 45, | - | - | - | - | 20 |
| Communicants of the Establishment, | - | - | - | - | 158 |

The number of children under 15 being 187, and the number of families in which these are, being 59, the number of children to each family is $3\frac{1}{8}$ nearly. There is one person in the parish, insane, a pauper.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| The number of families in the parish is, | - | - | - | 89 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 52 |
| chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | 16 |

Character, &c. of the People.—The people in general are simple in their manners, sober, industrious, satisfied with their condition, and attentive to their religious and other duties. They have, however, no religious, literary, economical, or political association among them. They are strangers to combination for any purpose whatever. They seem willing and pleased to do their duty, without waiting for the example or direction of the active stirring manager of some benevolent institution. If a good act may be done to a neighbour, the opportunity of doing it is seldom neglected. If any one has been unfortunate, or has fallen into distress, he is sure of the sympathy and active aid of those around him, and often to a greater extent than they can well afford. It is pleasing to see these kindly feelings continually showing themselves where there is evidently no motive but a desire to do to their brother as they verily believe, and could wish that, he would do to them.

Among such a people, where luxury is unknown, and religion, in a great measure, performs the part of human institutions, many things are wanting which are thought indispensable in other places. Here, for example, they have no lawyer, no justice of the peace, not even a constable, no medical man, no exciseman, no pawnbroker, no post-office, no Seceder meeting-house, no tradesmen of any kind but two smiths, two wrights, two tailors, two fishermen, and one miller, all of whom are absolutely necessary to keep the machinery of society in motion. There are, however, two public houses, which are certainly not of so indispensable a character. They are not wanted for the accommodation of travellers, and they cannot

but have a pernicious influence on the morals of those who are within the sphere of their influence. Satisfied of this, the minister and every tenant in the parish presented a respectful petition to the justices of the district, praying that the licenses might no longer be renewed; but their request was not attended to. It is not easy to see on what ground of expediency this refusal, on the part of our magistracy, can be justified.

Smuggling is not known in the parish; neither is there much ground for complaint in regard to poaching.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish contains 4514 acres. Of these 3827 are divided into convenient fields, substantially enclosed with thorn-hedges, and under a regular course of cropping, some portions in the four-shift husbandry, some in the five, and some in the six, according to the quality of the soil. 668 acres are planted. About 10 acres are an irreclaimable bog; and 9 is a fine pasture field, never ploughed, because sometimes it is flooded by the river. There are no commons, and no wastes. The plantations are all thriving, well attended to, and judiciously managed. Many sorts of timber are mixed up in them; but the ash, the elm, the larch, and the oak, predominate, and seem to thrive best. The Scotch fir grows very well for a time, and serves as a nurse, but it does not attain to a great size. This is probably owing to a spurious kind (not the true Scotch fir) having been planted, rather than to any unfitness in the soil or climate for its growth.

Rent of Land.—The rental of the parish cannot be exactly ascertained, because nearly 1000 acres, besides the plantations, are in the natural possession of proprietors. But supposing the arable part all let, the rent of the whole might be about L. 3700, or 19s. 3½d. per acre. If we value the wood at the same rate, and add L. 30 more for the salmon fishings, we shall have a total rental of L. 4374.

Live-Stock.—The cattle raised are for the most part of the short-horned breed, or crosses of them. The sheep are chiefly Leicesters; but there are also a few Cheviots, or crosses betwixt the two kinds. Much attention is paid to this part of farming, especially to the breeding and management of sheep. The keep of a cow per annum is valued at L. 6 or L. 7; of a sheep, at from 13s. to L. 1.

Husbandry.—Much has been done of late years, and is now doing by all the tenants in the way of deep draining, which is at-

tended with wonderful success, and seems to be the best foundation for every other improvement. A good deal of lime is annually driven, and bone-dust is coming every year into greater repute as a manure.

The farmers are active, intelligent, enterprising, and industrious; and their exertions for the improvement of their farms have, in general, been liberally encouraged by their landlords. Their houses and steadings are substantial and convenient. The farmers have all thrashing mills, except one. Three of these are driven by a water power, and one is now erecting on Rutherford to go by steam. The leases are all for 19 years,—which is thought a short enough period when any improvement is intended to be made. The only subject of complaint among the tenants is the ruinously low price of corn, which makes it difficult for them to pay the rents which they promised only a few years ago, without encroaching on their capital.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of labour, when it is not done by the piece, is 9s. or 10s. per week for men, without victuals. In harvest, a shearer has from 12s. to 14s. and victuals. A hind or ploughman is paid mostly in kind; he has a house and a small garden, for which his wife, daughter, or servant shear in harvest; 10 bolls (60 bushels) of oats; 3½ bolls of barley, (or 2½ bolls of barley, and 1 boll of pease); from L. 3 to L. 4 of sheep money; a cow's grass, (or, when he is not rich enough to buy a cow, L. 7 in lieu of it); 5 or 6 single cart loads of coals, at the coal-hill price, (4s. or 4s. 6d.); 1000 yards of potatoes planted on the farm; and 7 hens kept. A bondager, or female cottar, shears for her house and garden; has 1000 yards of potatoes planted; 3 single cart-load of coals at the coal-hill price, and 7 hens kept. It is understood that she is to work to the farmer when required, at the ordinary rate of wages, viz. 10d. a-day in summer, and 8d. in winter. A carpenter's wage is 14s. a-week over the year. A mason has 15s. in summer, and 11s. in winter. A smith has L. 2, 15s. or L. 3, and a single cart-load of coals, at the coal-hill price, for shoeing a pair of horses, and keeping a cart, plough, harrows, and harness in repair for a year. A tailor has 1s. 6d. a-day and his victuals.

Produce.—It is difficult to estimate precisely the amount of raw produce raised in any particular district, and more difficult still to ascertain its value. One very intelligent gentleman, to whom I applied for information on this point, and who himself farms between fourteen and fifteen hundred acres in the parish, valued his

produce of grain on an average at L. 3000 a-year, and of other things at L. 2000 more. Estimating the produce of the other farms at this rate, it cannot be set down at less than L. 7000,—making the total value of produce in the parish, L. 12,000, without including gardens, woods, or fishings.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The parish of Maxton is situated at an equal distance from the three market-towns, Kelso, Jedburgh, and Melrose,—the middle of it being about seven miles from each. The turnpike betwixt Kelso and Melrose runs through the heart of the parish along its whole length; and the Edinburgh and London road by Jedburgh bounds the west end of it. Besides these, there are some cross roads, chiefly for the convenience of the several farm-steadings, and kept in tolerably good repair by the statute-labour. One daily London and Edinburgh coach, by Jedburgh, passes this parish; and another, three times a-week, between Edinburgh and Jedburgh. There is also a coach from Kelso to Glasgow by Melrose, Inverleithen, and Peebles, every day in summer, and three times a-week in winter.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is an old building, or rather a small fragment of an old building, which was dedicated to St Cuthbert. The date of its erection, or even of its dilapidation, is unknown. The family of the Maxwells of Pollok were originally from the parish of Maxton. Their ancestors were once possessed of considerable property in this district, and appear to have been sheriffs of the county in the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries. Mention is made of a *donationary foundation* by one of them, Herbert Maccuswell, in 1158,—which is by some supposed to be the church of Maxton; and, no doubt, the building, from its appearance, may well be of that age: but the *name* of the founder would rather lead one to think that his gift was the church of Maxwell, which has long since gone to decay,—the parish thereof having been united to that of Kelso or Roxburgh.

The church of Maxton is beautifully situated on a high bank of the Tweed, on the north-west verge of the parish, rather where the population once was than where it is now. Few of the inhabitants, however, are more than three miles distant.

This edifice was long suffered to continue in a very wretched state. Before 1792, it was thatched with broom, and its interior was not unsuitable to its outward appearance. In 1812 it was mo-

dernised and thoroughly repaired ; and ' though no great taste was displayed in its improvement, it is now a comfortable place of worship to the little congregation that resorts to it. It is seated to hold about 150, but accommodation might easily be made for fifty more if there were occasion for it.

The manse was built about twenty-seven years ago, and is not unsuitable to the living, which is 14 chalders, half meal, half barley, with a small sum for vicarage tithes and communion elements. The glebe is about 11 acres, which might be let, perhaps, for L. 18 or L. 20.

The ordinary church collections, with mortcloth and proclamation fees, and the interest of L. 72, which was mortified by Mr Smith, a former incumbent, may average about L. 8 per annum, which is all expended on parochial purposes. We have no *extraordinary* collections for foreign objects,—the money of the people being too much required at home ; yet I know they would not be backward in giving their mite, if called on to do so. I have been twenty-three years their minister, and never called on them for an extraordinary collection but once, (for the Assembly's Highland schools,) when I expected to get, perhaps, between L. 1, 10s. and L. 2 to shew our good-will to that benevolent scheme ; but was surprised to receive upwards of L. 6. Not only the members of my own congregation, but the Seceders in the parish who could not attend on the occasion, sent their shillings and half-crowns. In 1831, there were 90 families in the parish ; of these 21 were Seceders, and the rest belonged to the Establishment. But many of these families of both classes were divided among themselves,—part going to the church, and part to the meeting-house.

Education.—The parochial school is the only one in the place. It is set down in a central situation, where all have easy access to it, and it is well attended. The children are all taught to read, write, and count ; there is none in the parish, old or young, who have not had this advantage ; and yet, the general poverty of the parents obliges them to put their children soon to work, so that these useful accomplishments are often not so perfectly acquired as might be wished. The schoolmaster is an infirm old man, who retired from the school twenty-five years ago, retaining his house and garden, and a salary of L. 25, 13s. 3½d. His assistant and successor has a house and salary of L. 20, 6s. 8½d. from the heritors, and the school-fees averaging L. 20, 1s. 5½d. during the last three years. He has also L. 4, 4s. as clerk to the heritors, and

L. 1, 1s. as session-clerk. He teaches English grammatically, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, practical mathematics, Latin, Greek, &c.

There is no public library in the parish ; but several families are connected with one in the neighbouring village of Lessudden.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are maintained by regular half-yearly assessments. The average number on the roll during the last four years is ten ; and the average yearly sum allotted to each is L. 5, 15s. 10½d.,—making in all L. 57, 19s. 9d., raised by assessment. There is, besides, a small sum from church collections, &c. after paying precentor and kirk officers' fees,—the account of which may stand thus : from church collections, L. 4, 6s. 10d. ; alms or legacies, L. 6, 19s. 7½d. ; proclamations, fines, &c. 12s. 7½d. ; interest of mortified money, L. 2, 18s. 2½d. = L. 14, 17s. 5½d. The deductions from this sum for precentor, beadle, &c. may amount to L. 6, 5s. 6d. The honourable pride of the Scotch peasantry, which so long made them shrink from any appeal to public charity till compelled by stern necessity, is fast wearing out as legal assessments gain ground. An application for aid is no longer a sure indication of want on the part of the applicant.

Fuel.—One of the greatest evils with which the poor have to struggle in this place is the expense of fuel. Except a few sticks from the young plantations, coals are the only material used for this purpose ; and these are brought for the most part from Northumberland, burdened with a land-carriage of between twenty and thirty miles. They cost at present about 10d. per cwt. which, in consequence of the improvements in roads, &c. is not more than half their price twenty years ago.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In 1794 the Kelso turnpike road was made, which laid the foundation for all the subsequent improvements of this place. So late, however, as 1807 or 1808, there were very few inclosures in the parish. By much the greater part of it was a bleak open waste,—in many places, covered with heath and large stones, with scarcely a tree to be seen,—and the tracks called roads, scarcely passable in wet weather. Now it is all inclosed with substantial and thriving hedges ; the stones that deformed its surface have been blown with gunpowder, and buried in drains or broken into road-metal ; the fields are all under the plough, and adorned and sheltered with clumps and broad stripes of thriving plantations in spots judiciously selected for the purpose, and communications opened up in every

direction by excellent roads. So sudden, so complete, and so beneficial a change in the aspect of a whole parish, has seldom happened. Landlord and tenant most liberally combined their efforts to bring it about. But it is painful to think that their exertions have been so poorly rewarded. Owing to the sad depression of agricultural produce on the return of peace, the farmers never recovered the capital which they had so liberally laid out on their improvements. Most of them were ruined and turned out of their farms; some were put on the poor's roll; and others sent to clear the wastes in Canada. The proprietors, instead of receiving the advances of rent from the new cultivators which they had reason to expect, were obliged to be content with a diminished rental, and are still, from time to time, constrained to submit with the best grace they can, to reductions in one shape or another, which are not less mortifying to the receiver than to the giver.

The chief bar to farther improvement in this district is the great distance of sea-ports and markets. The farmer has not only to bring his own and his servants' coals from a distant pit, but his lime also has to be carried thirty miles or more: his groceries, fish, timber, iron, slates, bone-dust, and almost everything that he may want, have to be brought from Berwick or Leith, or places equally remote. Nor is the sale of his produce attended with much less trouble and expense. His fat stock, beef, mutton, and pork, have to be driven to Morpeth or Edinburgh: his young cattle are sent south to the English market: his corn carried to Dalkeith or Berwick: his poultry, eggs, butter, and cheese, conveyed to Berwick or Edinburgh. It is true, he may often effect his sales in the county market-towns, or at his own house: but in that case, he must submit to a reduction of price, sufficient, at least, to carry his produce to its ultimate destination. The only remedy for this evil seems to be an improved communication with the sea-port of Berwick, and the coal and lime districts in Northumberland by means of a railway. This, accordingly, has long been talked of.

Revised November 1834.

PARISH OF ROXBURGH.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES HOPE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—ONE conjecture as to the origin of the name of this parish is, that Roxburgh is a contraction for *Rogue's* burgh; another, that it is a contraction for *Rose* burgh; and for each, a special reason is alleged, viz. the character of its ancient inhabitants, and the beauty of its situation. Another conjecture is, that the name may be derived from *Rox*, a Saxon word, signifying strength: and another from the circumstance that, by Lord Hailes and others, it has been spelled *Rokesburgh* and *Roches-burg*. From the similarity of *Rokes* and *Roches* to *Rok* and *Roch*, (a saint, it would seem, in the Romish calendar,) the burgh of Roxburgh may have originally been dedicated to saint *Rok* or *Roch*,—whence the name may have come.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish extends about 8 miles in length, and in breadth varies from 1 to 5 miles. From the extent thus given, a much larger number of square miles of surface might be inferred than it will be found to contain. There does not appear to be more than fourteen square miles. This circumstance is accounted for by the irregular and peninsular form of the parish. The parish is bounded by Maxton, Ancrum, and Crailing on the west; by Eckford on the south; by Kelso* on the east; and by Kelso and Makerstoun on the north.

* In the former Statistical Account of the parish of Kelso, it is mentioned, that Kelso parish consisted at one time of the parishes of Kelso, Maxwell, and St James'. This statement has frequently been repeated. (Vide Haig, Morton, &c.) It appears to me, on the contrary, highly probable that neither the whole nor any considerable part of St James' was added to Kelso and Maxwell. From what I can learn, St James' was confined to the space betwixt the rivers of Tweed and Tiviot, and must have extended considerably westward, and embraced several farms which were made to constitute a part of Roxburgh parish. At all events, what now belongs to Kelso parish is limited to about thirty acres, forming a triangle above the junction of the rivers. The western boundary of this triangle is a line, extending from river to river, by the Trysting Tree and the foot of St James' Green. This portion of land (commonly called the Kelso lands,) is not under entail to his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, and is not comprehended in the barony of Roxburgh. That the statement here given is

The figure of the parish is extremely irregular, and has been compared to a spread eagle, with its head to the north, and its wings shadowing eastward and westward.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish may in general be described as flat and low lying; at the same time, there is a considerable unevenness or undulation of surface, which is occasioned by the Tiviot intersecting it from south-west to north-east, and the Tweed bounding it for several miles on the north. At the south-west end of the parish, there are two eminences or hills, supposed to be each about 500 feet above the level of the sea. The one is called Dunse-law, or Doun-law, in this parish; and the other, immediately adjoining in Crailing parish, called Penel-heugh. From these eminences, two ridges gently slope to the eastward for several miles, and thereby exhibit an appearance as if formed by a current of water flowing parallel to the channel of the Tiviot. There are three caves in the parish,—at Sunlaws. The time when, and the purposes for which, these were excavated are not ascertained; but, from their appearance, they indicate a date not less than 1000 years ago, when incursions into this country were conducted with much desolation, rapine, and barbarity.

Meteorology, &c.—The climate of this district is equal, if not superior, to that of any inland part of Scotland. Its remarkable excellence depends on the fact, that there is less moisture than generally obtains in other districts. The cause of this appears to be, that the clouds, driven by the west winds which prevail, besides being exhausted in passing from the west to the east side of the island, are attracted by two ranges of hills, the Cheviot and Lammermoor, which, from a common point or centre, stretch to the east and north, and leave the large vale of Merse and Tiviotdale with comparatively little moisture. The heaviest rains are always from the east. It is probable, from the particular dryness of the atmosphere here, that it is warmer than in many other places of the same elevation, especially in wet seasons.

Hydrography.—There are many excellent springs in the parish, of which several have been found to be of a slightly petrifying quality. The rivers Tweed and Tiviot flow through part of it, and are its greatest ornaments. The quantity of water in the

founded on fact, is proved by the cess-book of the county, which bears that the whole barony of Roxburgh belongs to the parish of Roxburgh, and by the circumstance, that all the public burdens, such as statute labour, poor rates, stipend, &c. are charged for the parish of Roxburgh upon the whole barony and entailed lands thereof.

Tiviot appears to be not more than one-fourth of that of the Tweed.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks found here are of the secondary sandstone formation. Besides sandstone, there are various trap rocks, such as basalt, greenstone, and wacke, &c. The alluvial parts of the parish abound with large blocks of stone, which seem to have been rolled down from the two eminences, formerly noticed, at the south-west end of the parish. The dip or inclination of the stratified rocks which have been observed is chiefly towards the north and east. An appearance is observed on the north side of the parish worthy of notice. Underlying, and conformable to a series of sandstone strata, there is a very thick mass of rock (probably wacke) called the Trow Craigs, extending in breadth to not less than 150 yards, and forming in the Tweed an immense dam, over and through which, in the course of time, the water has forced its way. Owing to this circumstance, the channel of the river here is extremely abrupt and irregular. The descent measures sixteen feet, and in it are various rapids and eddies, where the violence of the water, especially when flooded, becomes an object of interest. Among alluvial deposits, are found gravel, sand, and loam, beside the rivers; and elsewhere, marl and peat. The soils vary from what may be called mossy, sandy, or gravelly, to fine loam.

Botany.—There are numerous plantations in the parish, consisting of various kinds of pine, oak, ash, elm, birch, beech, &c. Though the plantations are in general thriving and good, the trees in general do not appear to be of any remarkable age,—except the Trysting Tree, the age of which is not known, but it appears to have weathered the storm for at least two centuries. There have been at various times, portions extracted from its trunk, which the skill of the cabinet-maker has rendered highly ornamental for the drawing-room. This remarkable elm has for some time ceased to flourish, and is now apparently dead. All the cultivated grasses thrive here remarkably well; and, what is rather uncommon even in the south of Scotland, the red or broad clover seed is occasionally and very successfully raised from the second crop of sown grass seed. Such red clover seed has been repeatedly sown, and in every instance has proved superior to any foreign seed of the same year. A sample of red clover seed, raised here six years ago, was exhibited at the meeting of the Highland Society at Glasgow, and very favourable notice was taken of it by that body.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Chief Land-owners.—The chief land-owner is His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, who is also patron of the parish. He possesses somewhat more than one-half of the valued rent. The other chief land-owners are, William Scott Kerr, Esq. of Chatto; the Merchant Maiden Hospital; Sir John James Scott Douglas, Bart. of Springwood Park; Charles Rutherford, Esq. of Fairnington. They are here enumerated in the order of their respective valuations.

Parochial Registers.—There are three volumes of parochial registers belonging to the parish. The earliest entry is of date 1624, and the whole have been kept up to this time with more or less accuracy.

Antiquities.—The ancient town of Roxburgh, which is stated to have been the fourth town in Scotland in point of importance and population, was situated at the eastern extremity of the parish. In history, it is said to have been twice taken and burned, viz. in the years 1369 and 1460; and from the circumstance that the town was altogether constructed of wood, hardly any vestiges of it exist. A little to the west of the site of the old town, appear the ruins of the celebrated castle of Roxburgh, “of which there remains now only as much shattered wall as suggests the former prodigious strength and singular magnificence of the fortress. The south wall of the castle impended over the Tiviot,—a part of whose waters was directed by a dam thrown obliquely across the stream at the west end of the castle into a deep fosse, which defended the fortress on the west and north, emptying itself into the river at the east end thereof. Over this moat, at the gate-way from the town, was thrown a draw-bridge, the remains of which were but lately removed.”—(*Vide* former Account.)

At different times, various remains of antiquity have been dug up at or near the castle, which are believed to be in the possession of His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe. With regard to the history of the castle,—it was twice stormed, taken, and demolished, first by Robert Bruce in 1312, next in 1460, when James II. was killed by the bursting of a cannon. A yew tree, planted by His Grace the present Duke of Roxburghe, marks the spot where the king fell. Upon his death, the queen assumed the command in the name of her son, and urged the Scottish chieftains to testify the regard they had to their sovereign, by completing the enterprise in which he had fallen. Her example and exhortation had

the desired effect, and the place which had been a centre of rapine and violence for many ages, was reduced to a heap of ruins. Subsequently, in the year 1547, the Duke of Somerset, having occasion to remain with his army for some time in the neighbourhood, and observing the ruined fortress to be a convenient situation, repaired it, so as to make it capable of receiving an English garrison. Traces of these repairs still appear among the ruins, which are now covered with trees. The mighty change the castle has undergone, while it reminds of former times, conveys a lesson of the instability of worldly greatness.

There is adjoining to the village, and near the river, the ruin of a fort or tower, of which there were many in the border districts. It is denominated Roxburgh Tower, Wallace Tower, and also Sunlaw's Tower,* and evidently formed part of a chain of communication between the castle of Roxburgh and other towers on the rivers Kale, Jed, &c. It appears from history, that these towers had at various times received injuries from the incursions of the English mauraders, but were finally demolished, and reduced to ruin in the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, and in the year 1545, by an army under the command of Hertford, afterwards the Duke of Somerset. Nothing remains of this tower but the ground apartments, strongly arched over, and used, in all probability, as places of security for cattle. Concerning this tower, there are various traditional stories; but, as the truth of most of them is open to suspicion, and as all of them are much exaggerated, they are withheld from this Account.

About midway between Roxburgh Tower and Ormiston Tower, situated about two miles up the river Tiviot, and on a considerable eminence, are the remains of a camp, probably formed for the protection of the towers of Roxburgh and Ormiston.

The great Roman road, from the Frith of Forth to York, &c. runs through the south-west corner of this parish, along which, till lately, cattle purchased at the Scottish markets were driven into England.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|------|
| Population in 1782, by former Account, | 1100 |
| 1791, - - - - | 900 |
| 1811, - - - - | 946 |
| 1821, - - - - | 926 |
| 1831, - - - - | 962 |

* *Vide Monastic Annals*, p. 98.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----|
| The number of families in the parish is | - | - | - | 200 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 110 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | 18 |

In the village of Roxburgh and Hieton the population amounts to about 400, and in the country to 562. With regard to the yearly average of births, deaths, and marriages, for the last seven years, no accurate information can be given, in as much as registration in the parish registers has not been made compulsory by law.

There is only one family of independent fortune which resides occasionally in the parish. There are nine proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. For several years bygone, there have been exactly 200 families, and 196 inhabited houses, and 15 uninhabited.

Character of the People.—The general character of the people is intellectual, moral, and religious. In proof of this, it may be stated, that hardly anything of the nature of crime occurs, and the people are almost all in communion with the Established church or the Secession.

The temptation of poaching is very considerable, because of the abundance of game; and, in consequence, this offence has occasionally occurred.

During the last three years, there may have been 8 or 10 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are 5617 imperial acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage; 1735 acres in pasture; 221 under wood.

Rent of Land.—The average value of cultivated land is L. 1, 9s. per acre. Average rent for ox or cow, L. 2, 10s.; and 9s. for ewe or full-grown sheep. The real rent of the parish is about L. 9000.

Husbandry.—The husbandry pursued is commonly denominated *the turnip system of husbandry*; by which is to be understood, that a fourth or fifth part of a farm cultivated in this way is yearly made to grow turnips, of which about one-half is eaten on the ground by sheep; the other half is carted to the farm-steading for the horned cattle. In this way, the ground is manured by the sheep for subsequent crops, and the straw which is the produce of the farm is broken down in the curtains or yards by cattle, and is thus converted into manure for another crop of turnips. The order of cropping is, after turnips, wheat or barley, with an under crop of grass, which comes to maturity the following year, and is generally eaten with sheep. The ground remains frequently one year only, sometimes two, in grass, and is then ploughed up and sown with

oats; which is succeeded by turnips,—a succession of crops thus taking place of four or five years, according as the ground is allowed to remain one or two years in pasture. These are called the systems of four and five-break husbandry. Such a method of husbandry has been found well fitted for the climate of this country and highly profitable. One difficulty, and that a very formidable one, has occurred in pursuing it. Allusion is made to what is called the bad-root among the turnips. Various conjectures have been formed as to the cause or causes of this evil, the principal of which seems to consist in a constant repetition, within a limited time, of a turnip crop. It may be observed, however, that the evil has abated considerably by the use of lime, and attention to a proper change of rotation.

The general duration of leases is from fifteen to twenty-one years. The state of farm-buildings is creditable to landholders and tenants. The pasture land of the parish is well inclosed, and the arable part well subdivided and inclosed.

Quarries and Mines.—There are various sandstone rocks in the parish, but none of them of great value for building, and none of them regularly wrought. No mines as yet have been discovered in the parish.

Fisheries.—On both rivers, the Tweed and the Tiviot, are stations for fishing. The quantity of fish, though an article of commerce, has been for some years very inconsiderable. The rent of the whole fishings does not exceed L. 60 per annum.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals, | L. 14,280 | 0 | 0 |
| Of potatoes, turnips, and other plants, cultivated in the fields for food, | 2,910 | 0 | 0 |
| Of hay, meadow and cultivated, | 1,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 10s. per cow or full-grown ox grazed for the season, and 9s. per full-grown ewe or sheep pastured for the year, | 3,578 | 0 | 0 |
| Of Gardens and orchards, | 240 | 0 | 0 |
| Of river fisheries per year, | 60 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|
| Total yearly value of raw produce raised, | L. 22,268 | 0 | 0 |
|---|-----------|---|---|

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town in the parish; but there are two situated at a very convenient distance, viz. Kelso and Jedburgh. The former is about four miles distant from the village, and the latter seven miles. There are two villages in the parish, viz. Roxburgh and Hieton.

Means of Communication.—Two public roads run through the

parish,—the one, leading from Kelso to Jedburgh on the south side of the Tiviot, extends about three miles; the other, leading from Kelso to Melrose, &c. in the immediate vicinity of the south bank of the Tweed, and at every point commanding a view of this noble river, and of a rich and beautiful country, extends about four miles. Tiviot Bridge is on this road, and unites this parish to Kelso. This bridge is of excellent structure, and durable material.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated in the village of Roxburgh, and its situation is nearly central, but not very convenient for a considerable part of the population, because of the Tiviot which flows near it, and which when flooded cuts off about one-third of the population lying on the south side of the river. The distance from the western extremity of the parish is five miles, and from the eastern, three. The church was built in the year 1752, was repaired in 1828, and is in a good state at present. It affords accommodation for about 500 sitters. The manse was built in the year 1820. The extent of the glebe is ten imperial acres, of value L. 20. The amount of the stipend is 15 chalders, the one-half of which is oat-meal, and the other barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. It may also be stated, that there belongs to the minister a servitude for turf from His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, which has been commuted into the sum of L. 1, 10s. yearly.

The number of families attending the Established church is about 130, and the average number of communicants 240. The yearly amount of church collections is about L. 7. The smallness of the amount may be accounted for by the circumstance, that there has been a regular assessment for the poor of the parish for the last ninety-seven years.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish; both of these are parochial. The branches taught in both are, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and occasionally practical geometry; book-keeping, surveying, and Latin. The salary of the schoolmaster of Roxburgh is L. 34, 4s. 4½d., and of Hieton L. 17, 2s. 2½d. The amount of school-fees received by each is from L. 12 to L. 15 yearly, and each of the schoolmasters has the accommodation of school-room, school-house, and garden.

So far as is known, there are none between the ages of six and fifteen or upwards in the parish who cannot read and write. The people are in general alive to the benefits of getting their children properly educated. There is a part of the parish, viz. Fairnington,

so distant as to prevent attendance at the parish school; but attendance is given at the parish schools of Maxton and Ancrum, which are much nearer. There has occasionally been a private school in this part of the parish, and an additional school here would be beneficial.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid varies from 25 to 30. The average sum allotted to each is 2s. 1d. per week in summer, and 2s. 1½d. in winter. The annual amount of expenditure varies from L. 140 to L. 180, and arises chiefly from assessment levied, one-half from the heritors, and the other half from the tenants. This has been the regular mode of providing for the poor since the year 1737, and has been found to prove successful, and, under proper management, in the absence of residing heritors, appears to be by far the most just and equitable method of provision. No doubt, the feeling of reluctance and degradation at receiving parochial aid is diminished by assessment, and also the disposition on the part of the people to contribute to church collections; but these evils may be counterbalanced by proper management; and the opposite evils of want, and unequal distribution, are more formidable.

Fairs.—There is an annual fair held in the parish, on St James' Green, on the 5th of August, for the purposes of merchandize, hiring shearers, and horse and cattle-dealing. Considerable sales of wool are made at this fair, by the farmers in the surrounding districts. The wool is generally disposed of to English buyers.

Alehouses.—There are three alehouses in the parish. Two of them are in the village of Hieton, for the benefit of those passing on the turnpike road leading from Kelso to Jedburgh, Hawick, &c. The other is near the village of Roxburgh, at the ferry over the Tiviot.

Fuel.—The ordinary fuel is coal, which is procured from Northumberland; the distance is about eighteen or twenty miles. To the tenants and others having carts and horses, the expense of a single cart load at the coal-hill is from 6s. to 7s. (tolls inclusive) for sixteen cwt. Others, not having the same means of carting, obtain them for 11s. 6d. There is also abundance of peat in the western part of the parish.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking variation betwixt the present and former state of the parish is in consequence of the introduction of the turnip system of husbandry already noticed. A further improve-

ment is likely to take place in this respect, by the introduction of bone manure, which is found highly suitable for raising turnips, and of which not less than 500 quarters were used in the year 1832. There may be a little difference of appearance in the parish, from the greater space occupied by crop now than formerly. Such occupation, however, is not believed to be considerable, and has in some instances after trial been abandoned. The number of sheep reared renders pasture valuable, so that land which might be cropped with a certain degree of profit is found to be more profitable when in pasture, especially after an occasional tillage with improvement. It is perhaps worthy of remark, that the crops now raised are, beyond all doubt, much more productive and profitable than formerly.

The facilities of internal communication are, however, limited, and form the greatest barrier to improvement. This may be inferred from the fact, that while the land in this county is better than in most other counties, the climate good, and the husbandry highly improved, nevertheless the fiars prices for grain are among the very lowest in Scotland. This fact cannot be accounted for by the inferior quality of the grain, (for the reverse is the truth,) but by the great quantity produced above what is necessary for home consumption. This is carted chiefly to Berwick for the London market. The price of such carriage is regularly deducted from the returns given in by the witnesses on the fiars, and hence the low fiars price of corn. For the purpose of affording increased facilities of internal communication, it has been proposed to form a railway from this district to Berwick, and considerable progress has been made towards its accomplishment.

Revised November 1834.

PARISH OF MAKERSTOUN.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. DAVID HOGARTH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—According to Chalmers in his “Caledonia,” the original name of this parish signifies the town of Machar or Machir, who is supposed to have possessed that portion of country which forms the parish of Makerstoun.

Extent and Boundaries.—It is bounded on the west by the parish of Mertoun; on the north by that of Smailholm; on the east by that of Kelso; and on the south by the river Tweed, which separates it from the parish of Roxburgh. It extends in length, from east to west, between 3 and 4 miles, and in breadth, from north to south, between 2 and 3.

The ground rises gradually from the bank of the river to the northern extremity of the parish. The soil near the river is a rich dry loam upon a bottom of gravel or sandstone; but the northern part is of much inferior quality, being a thin clay upon a retentive subsoil.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—Nine-tenths of the land belong to Sir Thomas and Lady Makdougall Brisbane, and the remainder (with the exception of two cottages and a small garden) is the property of the Duke of Roxburghe.

Parochial Registers.—These extend from 1692, with little interruption, to the present time.

III.—POPULATION.

There appears no reason for believing that the population amounted to 1000, at a period so recent as fifty years before the date of the last Statistical Account; for in the same account, it is stated that the number of souls in this parish was 165 at the time when the population was ascertained by Dr Webster. The distance between these two periods is only twelve years; and, as during that interval there was no material change in the circum-

stances of the parish, the alleged diminution cannot be supposed to have taken place. In 1801 the population was 248. In that and the following year, one-half of the parish was let in farms of a larger size, and a superior mode of husbandry was introduced. The consequence was, that the population, by the census of 1811, was found to have risen to 352, being an increase of nearly one-third in ten years. The population diminished in 1821 to 345, and in 1831 to 326. But, as nine-tenths of the inhabitants are farm or house-servants, and liable to be removed every year, and as there is still the same number of inhabited houses, this trifling diminution may be regarded as accidental, and not likely to be permanent.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | - | 59 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | 48 |
| in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, | - | - | - | - | 5 |

The greater part of the population of this parish is extremely fluctuating. All the families, with the exception of nine, being the families either of farm-servants, or of tradesmen employed by the farmers, are liable to be removed every year. From this circumstance nothing can be said respecting the general character of the inhabitants.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres in the parish is 2854 : of these 2774 are cultivated or occasionally in tillage ; and 80 are planted.

Rent.—The rental of the parish is about L. 4000. The average value per acre of the parish may be from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 10s. At the time of the last Statistical Account there were eighteen ploughs in the parish. The number is now thirty.

Produce.—The produce per acre of the different kinds of grain varies according to the quality of the soil, and favourable or unfavourable character of the season, being of wheat and pease, from fifteen to thirty, and of barley and oats, from twenty to fifty imperial bushels. There are annually about 400 acres in turnips and potatoes. The following state shows the average gross amount and value of the raw produce as nearly as can be ascertained :

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Grain, | - | - | - | - | - | L. 6,172 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | - | - | - | - | - | 1,600 |
| Hay cultivated, | - | - | - | - | - | 480 |
| Land in pasture, | - | - | - | - | - | 2,158 |
| Fisheries, | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce raised, | | | | | | L. 10,423 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The turnpike road from Kelso to Edinburgh by Smailholm passes through the eastern extremity of the parish. There is a coach daily from Edinburgh to Kelso by this road.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church and manse were built on a new site in 1807, near the centre of the parish. An excambion of the glebe took place at the same time; the extent is twenty-two acres, and the value may be about L. 1. 5s. per acre. The stipend is fifteen chalders of barley and oat-meal, in equal parts, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. as an allowance for communion elements. The church may hold about 200 persons. The number of communicants for the last seven years has varied from 105 to 115. There are 58 families, 38 of which, either in whole or in part, belong to the Established church.

Education.—There is only one school in the parish; the parochial. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. and the average amount of school fees for the last seven years is L. 17 per annum. There are none in the parish above five years of age who cannot read.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of persons on the poors' roll for the last seven years has varied from two to five, and the sum allotted has been from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week. The annual amount of church collections for the same period has varied from L. 4 to L. 7. An assessment of from one farthing to three farthings per pound, on the rental of the parish, has been made half-yearly, as circumstances have required: and the average yearly amount raised from this source has been L. 5, 17s. There is a legacy of L. 27, the interest of which is for women above the age of seventy. There is another sum of L. 20, the interest of which is employed in the maintenance of the poor; but there is no record to ascertain for what purpose the sum was left. The amount of these interests is L. 1, 3s. 5d.

Fuel, &c.—There is no alehouse in the parish. Coal is the only fuel used, and costs from 8d. to 1s. per cwt.

Revised November 1834.

PARISH OF SMALHOLM.

PRESBYTERY OF LAUDER, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. THOMAS CLEGHORN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is in ancient charters written Smalham and Snalhame; and in modern times *Smalholm* and Smailholm. Its etymology, as stated in the former Statistical Account, is uncertain.

Extent, Boundaries.—It extends in length about 4 miles, and in breadth rather more than 3 miles, and contains more than 6 square miles. It is situated in the north-eastern extremity of the county of Roxburgh; is bounded by the parishes of Mertoun on the west; Earlston on the north; and Nenthorn on the east; and on the south by the parishes of Kelso and Makerstown.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The figure of the parish is irregular, and there is a variety of flat and rising grounds. It is about 500 feet above the level of the sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed. The air is pure, and the climate is considered peculiarly favourable to the health of the inhabitants, among whom no particular distemper can be said to prevail. Many of them live to a good old age.

Limestone has been found in the parish, but it has never been burned, owing to the great distance from coal. On the south side of the parish there is an abundant supply of hard whinstone rock, to which the road trustees have access for making and keeping in repair the turnpike-roads in the district; and a considerable quantity of what is called rotten rock is found in various parts of the parish, which is used for making and repairing country and farm roads.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners in the parish are, George Baillie, Esq. of Jerviswood; Hugh Scott, Esq. of Harden; and his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial regis-

ters is 1642. They have been regularly kept, and are in a pretty good state of preservation.

Antiquities.—On the south-west corner of the parish, in the farm of Sandyknow, the property of Mr Scott of Harden, among a cluster of rocks, stands “Smalholm Tower,” a large square building, supposed to have been a “border keep” before the union of the kingdoms. This tower has long been in a ruinous condition, but has acquired an interest in modern times, from the author of *Waverley* having spent part of his infancy in its vicinity, and from his having ascribed, in a great measure, to that circumstance the peculiar character of his poetry. In the *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, Sir Walter Scott, in a note prefixed to “The Eve of St John,” says, it was in order to celebrate Smalholm Tower and its vicinity, which had been the residence of his infancy, that he had written that border tale; and in the introduction to the third canto of *Marmion*, while describing the influence of that early residence on his style of poetry, he alludes to the tower and the surrounding crags.*

III.—POPULATION.

The former Statistical Account says, “In 1700, the number of inhabitants was 600; in 1743 the examination-roll was 457; in 1790 it decreased more than 100; in Dr Webster’s report the number of souls is stated at 551.” By the census taken in May 1831, the population of the parish is 628, being an increase of 128 since 1821.

In the three divisions of which the village consists, there are 360 person, which leaves for the country part of the parish 268.

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years is | - | 10 |
| deaths, between | - | 7 and 8 |
| marriages, between | - | 2 and 3 |
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age is | - | 256 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | - | 186 |
| 30 and 50, | - | 124 |
| 50 and 70, | - | 94 |
| upwards of 70, | - | 18 |

There are 3 proprietors of land in the parish having properties of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, but none of them reside in it. There are about 12 unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers above fifty years of age, and about 21 unmarried women upwards of forty-five.

The average number of children in each family, taking those families only in which there are children, is nearly 4.

* The farm of Sandyknow was possessed by the paternal grandfather of Sir Walter Scott.

The number of families in the parish is - - - 127
 chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - 55
 trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 32

During the last three years there have been 2 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—In the parish there are 3450 acres of land cultivated or occasionally in tillage; 457 acres which never have been cultivated, but which remain constantly in pasture; and there are none in a state of undivided common. About 60 acres are under wood, planted with firs, and hard-wood of various kinds, which are properly managed by thinning, pruning, &c.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is L. 1 per English acre. The average rent of grazing per ox or cow is L. 3; and per ewe or full-grown sheep 10s. pastured for the year. The real rent of the parish is about L. 4000.

Husbandry.—The duration of leases is from fifteen to twenty-one years. The farm-buildings are substantial and commodious, and the whole parish is subdivided into suitable enclosures by stone and thorn hedge fences. Great improvements have been, and are still making, by draining, liming, &c.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish as near as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, | - | - | - | L. 5800 | 0 | 0 |
| Of potatoes, turnips, &c. | - | - | - | 1450 | 0 | 0 |
| Of land in pasture, | - | - | - | 1560 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinning of woods, &c. | - | - | - | 40 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|---|
| Total yearly value of raw produce, | L. 8850 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|---|

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

In the parish there is one village, which consists of three divisions, East Third, West Third, and Overtown. The turnpike road, from Lauder to the March-Burn, passes through the East Third, in which the church, manse, and school-house are situated. Kelso, which is at six miles distance, is the nearest market-town, to which a carrier goes weekly on Friday, the market day.

Means of Communication.—The parish enjoys ample means of communication in all directions. The turnpike road runs through the parish from north to south for more than three miles, and there is a branch of road leading westward from the village for about two miles towards Drygrange Bridge, on the Jedburgh road. The Tweedside coach betwixt Kelso and Edinburgh passes through the village every lawful day at nine o'clock in the morning, going north, and at two o'clock P. M. going south. An Earlstown car-

rier to Edinburgh regularly attends at Smalholm on Monday afternoon, for the purpose of procuring eggs, butter, poultry, &c. for the Edinburgh market; which is of great advantage to the village and neighbourhood.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is very conveniently situated for the whole population; none of the inhabitants being more than two miles distant from the church; the greater part of them are within five minutes walk of it. From an inscription (SOLI DEO GLORIA 1632) found on a triangular stone, which was taken down from the top of one of the doors when the church was under repair, it appears to have been built in 1632. The church has been frequently repaired partially; in 1820 and 1821 it was completely new seated, and otherwise much improved; and is now one of the neatest and most comfortable places of worship in the district. It can easily accommodate 282 persons, but may hold 300. All the sittings in the church are free, the area being divided among the heritors according to their valued rents, for the accommodation of their tenantry, who are in general amply provided for,—while too little space is left for the inhabitants of the village; an inconvenience which is felt very generally in country churches, and which requires to be remedied. There is also a private gallery in the west end of the church, for the accommodation of the family of George Baillie, Esq. who is patron of the church and parish, but whose residence of Mellerstain is in Earlstoun parish. The manse, which is upon a small scale, but neat and comfortable, was built in 1803 and 1804. The glebe, including the stance of the manse, offices, garden, and hedge enclosures, consists of 12 English acres, which may be valued at L. 1, 10s. per acre. The stipend, as modified in 1823, amounts to fourteen chalders of victual, half barley and half oat-meal. There are about 100 families belonging to the Established church, and the average number of persons of all ages attending it is about 220,—the remaining families, who do not belong to the Establishment, attend public worship in the Seceding meeting-houses chapels at Kelso, Earlstoun, and Stichel. The average number of communicants is 240. In several families, while the parents still adhere to the Secession, the children almost all belong to the Establishment.

Education.—In the parochial school, the branches of instruction taught are, English, grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, practical mathematics, and Latin. The parochial teacher has the legal accommodation and the maximum salary; and his school fees

may amount to L. 28 or L. 30 a-year. Besides the parish school, there is a school at the farm-house of Sandyknow, which is supported by the tenant of that farm, who gives board and lodging to the teacher for educating his own children, and also by the school fees of his other pupils. There, the same branches are taught as at the parish school, and the quarterly fees are the same. All the young persons in the parish, between six and fifteen years of age, can read and write, or are learning to do so; and it is not known that there is any person upwards of fifteen who cannot read or write. The total number of scholars attending both schools is about 100.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was established some years ago in the parish, but was discontinued at Whitsunday 1830, as the directors did not think it was answering the purpose for which it was established.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are twelve enrolled poor in the parish; who have at an average about 2s. per week, with occasional supplies of coal, meal, &c. from the session funds. The annual amount of the church collections is about L. 12, and the half-yearly assessment about L. 35. There seems to be no disposition among the poor, when reduced by necessity, to refrain from seeking parochial relief, neither do they in general appear then to consider it as degrading.

Inns, &c.—There are an inn and an alehouse in the village. Their effect on the morals of the people is decidedly unfavourable.

The fuel consists of wood and coal; the wood is procured from the neighbourhood; and the coals cost from 14d. to 16d. per cwt. when brought from Lothian, and 10d. to 11d. from Northumberland.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the time of the last Statistical Account, four shops have been established, where almost every necessary article of either soft or hardware may be obtained, and there has been for a considerable time a baker in the village.

The parish is not susceptible of much greater improvement, as the system of husbandry now practised by an intelligent and respectable tenantry is of the most approved kind.

Revised November 1834.

PARISH OF LINTON.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. WILLIAM FAICHNEY, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish is derived from *Lynn*, which in the British language signifies a pool, or lake, as well as a cataract, and from the Saxon word *ton* or *toun*, which denotes a dwelling-place. Linton thus means the dwelling at the lake. The ancient village of Linton, of which there are now scarcely any vestiges, was situated near the borders of a lake still called Linton Loch,—which lies in a south-eastern direction from the parish church.

Extent and Boundaries.—The length of this parish, extending west to east as far as the English border, is 6 miles: its breadth, 2 miles. It is bounded on the north and north-west by the parishes of Sprouston and Eckford; on the west by Eckford; on the south and south-west by Morbattle and Yetholm; and on the east by Northumberland. Its western extremity forms part of a beautiful valley watered by the Kale, a stream which descends from the Cheviot range.

Topographical Appearances.—From this valley the land rises in a somewhat undulating ascent, till it reaches its highest elevation on the summit of Linton hill. Its surface eastward is varied and uneven, and sometimes intersected by small hills, which connect those of the Cheviot with the fertile plain which extends along the southern bank of the Tweed, in the parishes of Kelso and Sprouston. If, in former times, the inhabitants of Britain chose the summits of hills as the places for judicial proceedings, or the purposes of legislation, the small hills in this parish appear, from their names, Kiplaw, Hoselaw, Blakelaw, to have been the scene of such proceedings. The hills now mentioned extend along the northern boundary. Between these and Linton, and the Graden hills, which skirt the southern extremity, a considerable tract of low land intervenes, which again is sometimes indented into valleys. The greater part

* Drawn up by the Rev. James Brotherston, Assistant to the Minister of the parish.
ROXBURGH.

of this tract is richly cultivated. Though in some places it is marshy and interspersed with mosses, yet almost the whole of it is susceptible of cultivation. With the exception of Linton hill, the higher parts of which are still waste, the plough has reached the summit of the highest eminences. The valley on the western extremity, and of which 300 acres belong to this parish, is bounded on the north and north-east by the church of Linton, and Clifton Park, a seat of Mr Pringle of Clifton, M. P. surrounded by a fine old plantation; on the west, by Marlefield, formerly the residence of Sir William Bennet of Grubbet, the well-known patron of Allan Ramsay, and of whose hospitable mansion, Thomson, the author of the Seasons, is said to have frequently been an inmate; on the east, by Wideopen, the paternal inheritance of Thomson; and on the south and south-west, by the village of Morbattle and Cessford, the massive remains of whose baronial fortress, once the residence of the ancestors of the noble family of Roxburghe, still frown in ancient dignity on the adjacent territory. This valley, both on account of its delightful scenery and local associations, has been often surveyed with no small interest.

Meteorology.—The climate, which, in the western and most populous portion of the parish is peculiarly mild, in the eastern and central district undergoes a considerable change for the worse. Here the increased coldness of the atmosphere, the greater poverty of the soil, the absence of plantations, and the greater elevation of the ground, all combine to render the aspect of the fields bleaker and more barren. The winds likewise vary in the eastern and western districts; while the east and north winds chiefly prevail in the former, and prove in no small degree hurtful to vegetation,—in the latter, these winds are little felt; while gales from the south-west blow across the valley, and strike the rising ground opposite to it with considerable violence. Severe blasts not unfrequently range from the Cheviot on the south-east, assail this portion of the parish. The wind always blows from that direction in a severe storm.—The climate of this parish has always been deemed, upon the whole, peculiarly healthy. At one period, agues were not unfrequent; but, since the draining of the lakes and marshy lands, these have totally ceased; and in the parish there are several individuals who have reached a very advanced age.

Hydrography and Geology.—There are two lakes in the parish. Linton Loch is nearly circular in form, and contains fifty acres. It occupies a natural basin formed by hills of considerable height,

surrounding it on the north, east, and south, and cultivated almost to their summits. Towards the west, it opens into the valley of the Kale, into which, by a copious stream, it discharges its waters. The whole of the surface of these fifty acres was formerly covered with water; it is now partially drained, and it exhibits the appearance of a verdant morass, interspersed with three or four pools of water, in which are found excellent trout, closely resembling those of Lochleven. The surface of the lake or morass, to a considerable depth, consists of moss, under which there is excellent marl. Of the moss, there are three different kinds: the first stratum consists of vegetable roots of a more recent and less complete decomposition. Its depth is from four to five feet. The second stratum is from two to three feet deep, of a lighter colour, and more decomposed; when long exposed to the air, it becomes nearly as white as marl; and when dried, it is quite hard. The lowest stratum is nearly four feet thick, and entirely composed of wood of various sorts; but principally of birch and hazel. In this stratum were found large quantities of hazel-nuts, heaped in large masses, as if collected by the impulse of a current of water. When exposed to the air, they appeared quite fresh; they were broken even by a slight touch, and were found to be full of water. The moss in the centre of the loch is of extraordinary depth; sixty-five feet of iron rod could not fathom it,—as was found from a recent experiment made in search of marl. About eight years ago, it was attempted to dig the marl found beneath the moss; but, though it was of the finest quality, the expense of digging it was so great, in consequence of the annoyance arising from the great abundance of water, that the enterprise was abandoned. From an accurate measurement, so far as this was practicable, it appeared that the marl amounted to one million of cubic yards. Its seam varied in thickness from two to eighteen feet. It was sometimes blended with a seam of sand from two to three feet in thickness. The colour of the marl is varied; the greatest part of it being white as lime; and a considerable quantity of it black as moss; and there are portions of it which partake of both colours, mingled in various proportions. The black marl was, upon trial, found equally efficacious as the white. Viewed through a microscope, though fine as flour, it presented the appearance of decomposed shells. The black was generally separated from the white marl, and in different layers. A deer's horns, of an extraordinary size, and supposed to be

those of the rein-deer, were found imbedded in the marl fourteen feet below its surface,—above which there were ten feet of moss. These are now in the possession of Mr Pringle of Clifton, the proprietor. They measured 3 feet in length, and 3 feet 10 inches between each horn. Besides these, several skeletons, amounting to twenty, of animals of different species, and of various sizes, were discovered in the space of less than an acre. The bones of one of these in magnitude exceeded those of a horse. Some of them were much decayed; and when affected by the air, mouldered into dust. The moss also abounded with large and thick oaks; it contained wood from the smallest twig to the tree of two feet diameter, which was usually quite soft and spongy,—so that these trees were saturated with moisture, and the soil or vegetable roots amid which they were imbedded. In the bottom of the lake, also, a very strong and copious mineral spring was found to issue from the sand beneath the seams of marl after it was dug. There are obvious traces of this lake, enlarged by the waters of the Kale once flowing into it, and by the rills and torrents descending from the adjacent hills, having formerly covered the whole expanse of the valley formerly mentioned, and extending to 1000 acres,—thus forming a uniform and magnificent sheet of water. The whole of this space abounds with copious springs of the purest water, whose origin is traced to the Kale, and which rise through veins of sand. The other lake, called Hoselaw Loch, is situated near the eastern extremity of the parish. Its surface extends to thirty acres; it is of an oblong form, and is three-quarters of a mile in circumference. It abounds with perch and eels of the silver kind. The perch which it contains were only recently introduced to it from a neighbouring lake: and the fishing of these affords amusement to parties of pleasure during summer. Sometimes, during the most sultry period of summer, shoals of perches are, from some cause unknown, cast out dead upon the margin of the lake. The greatest depth of the lake does not exceed at any time fifteen feet: in summer it greatly decreases. It forms an entire sheet of water: and is terminated on the west by a moss of great extent and depth,—which, from the difficulty of access to it, and the indifferent quality of the peat, is little dug. There is another moss, about a mile westward from this, on the farm of Greenlees, which also is of considerable extent and depth. Its peats are of a better quality: and marl has been found beneath the moss; but neither have been used to any extent.

Besides the mineral spring already mentioned, there are several others in the parish,—one of which, on the farm of Bankhead, appears, from tradition, to have been frequently used for scorbutic complaints. It is still occasionally employed in these disorders.

Soil, &c.—The soil of the greater portion of the western district consists of loam, gravel, sand, and clay, mixed in various proportions; 300 acres adjoining Kale water are of a stiff retentive clay, resting on a wet channel bottom; but the soil of part of this tract is a deep loam, reposing on sand and gravel. The whole of this fine strath would be much improved by deepening the course of a mill-dam which flows through it, and by draining. In the eastern and central district, where the land is higher, the soil is light. There are frequent instances of the soil having been carried by the rain from the higher, and deposited in the lower lands. This, though sometimes beneficial, also proves occasionally injurious to the latter, as in draining, the good soil has been discovered buried beneath a lighter soil, which had been thus borne down from the hills. Most of the rocks are whinstone, which, when broken, has been frequently found to contain rock crystals. In one quarry, there is a large seam of the latter interwoven with the whinstone; the course of which seam can be readily traced by the eye. On the farm of Frogden, there is a quarry of freestone, which, notwithstanding the good quality of the stone, has been little wrought. Large pieces of jasper of all kinds are frequently dug up by the plough, and lie scattered over the surface of the ground. The fir, the oak, the ash, and the elm, here find a congenial soil. The principal plantation is that of Clifton Park, which covers an extent of thirty acres. Several years ago, a small seam of coal was discovered on the farm of Greenlees, but the working of it was not proceeded in to any extent, and was speedily abandoned as unprofitable.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The earliest notice of this parish appears in connection with the donation * of the church of Linton to the monks of Kelso, by Sir Richard Cumin, for the salvation of the soul of Prince Henry, eldest son of David I. This Sir Richard Cumin was the ancestor of the Cumins of Badenoch, and of the famous John Cumin who aspired to the Scottish crown. At the period of the gift, he appears to have held one of the highest offices of the state; but whether or not he possessed property in the parish is uncertain.

* See Chartulary of Kelso.

Family of Somerville.—Soon after this period, it appears that a considerable portion of the lands of Linton were obtained by William de Somerville, ancestor of Lord Somerville, as a reward for having killed a monstrous serpent, wolf, or boar, which infested the neighbourhood, and seems to have committed great devastation. * This gift is stated to have been made by William the Lion, King of Scotland, in the year 1174:† and the property thus acquired seems to have remained, during a considerable period, in the possession of the Somerville family,—some of whose representatives are recorded, at different periods, to have granted lands in the parish to the monks of Glasgow and Melrose. ‡

The name of the above William de Somerville appears in the list of witnesses appended to a charter of confirmation granted to the monks of Kelso by King Malcolm IV. He was the son of Roger de Somerville, Baron of Whichnour, in England, and after performing the exploit for which he was rewarded with the barony of Linton, he was invested with the office of principal Falconer to the King of Scotland, and also with that of the sheriffdom of Roxburghshire. He built the tower of Linton, which continued to be the residence of his family till near the end of the fourteenth century, when they removed to the castle of Cowthally in Carnwath. A portion of Linton church then called the choir, too, was their ordinary burial-place, till about the year 1424. In this place the remains of the above William, the founder of his family in Scotland, were interred.§ When the barons of England, who extorted the Magna Charta from their reluctant king, were afterwards subdued, and when many of their castles and possessions were reduced to ruin, Roger, his father, who was one of them, sought refuge with his

* See Douglas' *Baronage of Scotland*, and *History of the Family of Somerville*.

† The den of this animal is still pointed out under the name of "the worm's hole;" and the field in which it is situated receives the name of Wormington.

In the southern wall of the parish church, an ancient stone, which exhibits the effigy of a man on horseback, with a long lance or spear in his hand, and thrust into the mouth of an animal resembling a dragon, is thought to illustrate the tradition; and the history of the noble family of Somerville, lately published, gives a detailed account of the transaction. It is also said that the stone once contained the following inscription:

"The wode Laird of Lariestone,
Slew the wode worm of Wormioston,
And won all Linton paroshine."

The memorial of this event is still preserved on the crest of Lord Somerville's arms, which retains, among other allusions to it, the following inscription, "The wode laird."

‡ See *Chartularies of the above monasteries*.

To these religious donations, probably, are to be ascribed the names still in use of certain fields and houses,—such as the "Prior Row," and the "Priory Meadow."

§ At the period of his death, he must have been upwards of eighty years of age.

son in Scotland, and shortly after died at Linton tower, and was buried in the choir of Linton church. Some of the representatives of this house, while they resided in their barony of Linton, were renowned for their patriotism. Walter de Somerville, the third Baron of Linton, magnanimously maintained the rights of his country against the aggressions of Edward I. He was one of the few barons who supported Wallace, and seconded his efforts to recover his country's freedom. Under Wallace he commanded the third brigade of cavalry at the battle of Biggar. He also appears to have been among the first who joined the standard of Bruce,* to whom previous to his death, he solemnly entreated his son to remain a faithful adherent. The latter, accordingly, John de Somerville, was not disobedient to his father's injunctions, and steadily maintained the interests of the house of Bruce till his death. His remains were consigned to the tomb of his ancestors in Linton church. †

Antiquities.—The ancient fortalice or tower of Linton, of which there are now scarcely any vestiges, and which was formerly the residence of this family, stood on an eminence now covered with trees, near the church, which overlooks it. About twenty years ago, a large iron door was dug out of the cavity, which still remains to mark the site of the dungeon. It appears to have been surrounded by a fosse, the water of which was supplied from an adjoining rivulet. It shared in the devastations common to similar fastnesses in the borders; for during the reign of Henry VIII. the warden of the English marches, in a hostile invasion of the Scottish territory, besieged and set fire to it; and Surrey, in a letter to the same sovereign on a similar occasion, mentions his having razed it to the ground." ‡

The Kerrs of Graden in this parish were distinguished in border warfare. Graden Place, their residence, still manifests the traces of an ancient fortress, surrounded by a moat. During the border feuds and depredations, while the two kingdoms were separated, this parish suffered in common with the adjacent country. Occupying part of what was formerly called the "dry marches," it formed one of the principal thoroughfares betwixt the two kingdoms. A narrow aperture between two hills along the verge of Linton loch appears to have been regarded as an important *pass*, and there are still obvious marks of its having been once closely guarded. The small eminence on which the church is built seems to have af-

* See Tytler's History of Scotland.

† We also find him mentioned among the prisoners taken by the English, after the Bruce was defeated at Methvin.

‡ See Cotton Manuscript, and Monastic Annals of Tiviotdale, p. 29.

forded a favourable position for defending it : and this eminence is generally believed to have been artificial. A hollow in the neighbourhood is still shown, whence the soil which forms it was conveyed.

In a field on the farm of Frogden, five or six upright stones, forming a circle, were designated the "tryst,"—from their being a rendezvous where predatory hordes projecting an incursion into Northumberland were wont to meet.

The whole of the district abounds with memorials of ancient border warfare. From its contiguity to the fortresses of Werk and Roxburgh, it must occasionally have been the scene of the more important struggles between the two kingdoms. Accordingly, on the summits of the small hills, there are remains of circular encampments; and from the surface of the ground arise numerous small tumuli, which, when excavated, are found to contain human bones inclosed in circular earthen urns, of various dimensions. Some of these are obviously of Roman construction. In one place, these tumuli are so numerous as almost to resemble a burying-ground, or at least they render it probable that the ground which they occupy had been once a field of battle. Most of these bones, as well as the urns containing them, when exposed to the air, dissolve into dust. About fifty years ago, during the repairing of the church, a large grave was discovered, in which were fifty skulls; all were equally decayed, and many of them bore marks of violence. It is conjectured that they belonged to individuals who had fallen at Flodden Field; the remains of many of whom, as is well known, were consigned to a common grave in the cemeteries of the nearest border parishes. A few years ago, a brazen Roman spear was found in a mossy soil, three feet below the surface, near the mouth of a well, and is now in the possession of Mr Pringle of Clifton, M. P.

A chapel belonging to the Established church appears to have been formerly at Hoselaw, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the eastern district, which was then, as at present, at an inconvenient distance from the parish church. The remains of this chapel and of a small burying-ground attached to it were visible till lately, when, by the operations of the plough, they were wholly effaced.

Land-owners.—Robert Pringle, Esq. of Clifton and Haining, Member of Parliament for Selkirkshire, is the principal proprietor and the patron of the church; nearly two-thirds of the lands belong to him. This gentleman maintains the same high reputation for public spirit, generosity, and interest in the welfare of his

tenants, which have distinguished his ancestors. The tenantry are prosperous and happy, and hold him in the highest estimation. They avoid either extreme of extravagance or parsimony. Their industry, diligence, and zeal in executing those improvements which experience has proved to be advantageous, are highly commendable; and all of them reside on their farms, each of which is of sufficient magnitude to occupy the attention of a resident tenant. The other proprietors are Mr Wauchope of Niddrie-Marishall; Mr Dawson of Graden; Mr Oliver of Blakelaw, and Mr Davidson of Hoselawmains. None of these are resident.

Eminent Persons.—The late Mr Dawson, while farmer at Frogden, was the first who introduced into Scotland some of the most important agricultural improvements, such as the turnip husbandry, and drill system, the laying down of the lime, and harrowing it in on the land when laid down in pasture, and the sowing of artificial grasses. Mr Thomas Pringle, author of a small volume of poems, and of several other useful and interesting publications; and Dr Clarke, who long enjoyed celebrity as the first physician in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, were both natives of this parish.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of births have been pretty regularly kept; and the date of their earliest entry is 1732.

III.—POPULATION.

Though there are now no remains of the once considerable villages of Hoselaw and Linton, yet the number of the inhabitants of the parish has rather increased. This is entirely to be attributed to the improvements in agriculture, requiring a corresponding increase of labour. The population is spread over a rural tract among the various farms or hamlets, and is almost exclusively confined to agricultural employments.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|-----|
| Population in 1811, | - | - | 462 |
| 1821, | - | - | 458 |
| 1831, | - | - | 462 |

Of the 462 inhabitants at the time of the last census, only 6 are employed in trade or manufactures. The average number of marriages, births, and burials is at present nearly the same as that which was stated in the former Statistical Account; it may be computed at 5 marriages, 10 births, and 6 burials annually. It has been remarked that, of late years, there are even fewer burials than formerly, in consequence of the hinds being less stationary in a parish of this kind than in those which have villages, into which they retire when disabled by age or infirmity. On all the farms, amounting to fifteen, (with the exception of five,) the tenants reside; but of the residing farmers only four are married.

Character of the People.—The peasantry possess all the qualities which have long characterized the same class in Scotland. They are distinguished for intelligence, and, for the most part, are exemplary in their habits. No ardent spirits are sold in the parish, and therefore they are seldom tempted to deviate from their ordinary sobriety. The tenantry and their hinds or farm-servants generally follow the occupations of their fathers, and with “sober wishes” they pursue “the noiseless tenor of their way,” unseduced by the allurements that are usually found in a crowded population. The cottages of the poor in general present internally an appearance of the utmost cleanliness. Their dress at church or at market approaches to elegance. Most of them possess abundance of solid and wholesome food; and there are few cases of real privation. They seldom change masters, and on some farms most of the servants have remained during the currency of more than one lease.

There have been two illegitimate births during the last three years.

The number of families in the parish is 84.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—This parish contains 6500 acres of land; 4750 of these are cultivated; and the remaining 1750 are waste, whereof about 80 acres are covered with wood.

Husbandry.—Two or three of the farmers have long enjoyed celebrity as improvers and breeders of stock of all descriptions. The stock principally consists of cattle of the improved short-horned breed, and of the Leicester and Cheviot breed of sheep. The cultivated land, too, has been highly improved. Much waste ground has been reclaimed, and the benefits derived from this source have been such, that the present tenants can keep as much stock as those of former times, and have, besides, all the additional grain yielded by the improved land. A considerable portion of the remaining waste land (probably 450 acres) is susceptible of cultivation, and is fitted either to produce crops, or to be laid down in pasture. The crops raised are, oats, barley, and wheat,—of which the two latter are the most prevalent. The turnips were, at an early period, infested by the bad root; the only remedy for which that has yet been discovered is abundant liming; and even this has been but partially successful. In not a few instances, like every other expedient, it has failed to revive the sinking hopes of the husbandman, doomed to witness the baneful effects of this desolating scourge. The duration of leases is nineteen years.

The rent of a few farms is paid in part according to the *fiars*,—which mode of payment is deemed the most equitable. The accommodations granted to the tenant, both as regards building and enclosing, are generally of the best description.

Draining, though practised to a great extent, is still very imperfectly carried on, and presents a large field for exertion, and for the application of capital. One field only, extending to 20 acres, has been irrigated. The experiment, however, was successful, and afforded abundant compensation for the labour and expense. Considerable embankments have been made on Kale Water, and on a small stream called the Lake, whose course at one period appears to have been deepened for the purpose of emptying the stagnant waters of a lake or morass in its vicinity, of which there are still some remains. These embankments have proved very beneficial.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|----|----|
| 893 bolls of wheat, imperial measure, | - | - | - | L. 1452 | 10 | 10 |
| 3560 do. barley, | - | - | - | 3204 | 0 | 0 |
| 5700 do. oats, | - | - | - | 3657 | 10 | 0 |
| 758 acres turnips, | - | - | - | 3032 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 potatoes, | - | - | - | 320 | 0 | 0 |
| 230 cultivated hay, | - | - | - | 805 | 0 | 0 |
| Land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox, and at 10s. | - | - | - | 1904 | 0 | 0 |
| per ewe or full-grown sheep, | - | - | - | | | |
| | | | | L. 14,375 | 0 | 10 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Kelso, which is six miles distant, is the nearest market-town. The farmers occasionally frequent also the market of Jedburgh, which is at least eight miles distant. They deal extensively with the corn-merchants of Berwick, with whom they bargain to convey thither the grain that has been purchased, and they usually return home with a load of coal or lime from Northumberland; hence the advantages which they would reap from the execution of the long projected rail-road between Kelso and Berwick. They generally drive their stock and fat cattle to the markets of Edinburgh and Morpeth, but principally to that of the latter place. They are almost equidistant from both.

Means of Communication.—Kelso is also the nearest post-town;—with which, exclusively of the market-day, there is a regular communication twice in the week. Most of the roads are good, and kept in good repair. The fences are in general good, and chiefly consist of hedge-rows of thorn, interspersed with trees.

These, besides improving the aspect of the country, by giving to it a finely wooded appearance, are attended with other advantages previously stated, which amply compensate for the failure of vegetation in their neighbourhood.

Ecclesiastical State.—A more delightful and sequestered situation than that which is occupied by the church and manse can scarcely be conceived;—the church crowning the summit of a circular little hill; the manse about 100 yards distant from it, embosomed amid fine old fruit trees, and agreeably sheltered and approached by an avenue lined with tall trees,—present a scene whose peculiar charms uniformly arrest the attention of the spectator. As the church is placed nearly at the western extremity of the parish, a distance of almost six miles intervenes between it and the remotest part of the eastern district. To the inhabitants of the latter, therefore, its situation is inconvenient. As it is easily accessible, however, to by far the most populous part of the parish, its present position, which, as regards climate, soil, and the cultivation of the land contiguous to it, has superior advantages, is upon the whole the best and most eligible; and few, if any, have expressed a serious desire for its removal.

From the thickness and strength of its walls, and the depth to which they have sunk in the soil, the church exhibits marks of considerable antiquity. It was repaired about forty-five years ago, and contracted within its original dimensions. It affords accommodation for 180 persons, and is sufficient for the inhabitants of the parish. The above number rather exceeds that of the average attendance; but on ordinary Sabbaths it is still well attended. The average number of communicants of late years has been 170. There are no Dissenting chapels in the parish; they abound, however, in the neighbourhood, and are attended by twelve families in this parish, who chiefly belong to the Seceders of the United Associate Synod. The manse was built about fifty years ago; it has since received scarcely any repair; and both it and the office-houses are in a good condition. The glebe contains ten acres of arable land of the best quality, and the stipend consists of sixteen chalders of grain. In the manse garden, there are two fine old pear trees, the price of one year's produce of which amounted to L. 10.

Education.—The parochial school is the only seminary in the parish; the branches of education taught at which are reading, writing, arithmetic, algebra, and mathematics. For instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, the average sum paid for each

pupil is 3s. per quarter. The teacher is authorized by the heritors to exercise his own discretion with regard to the fees to be exacted from those who are taught algebra and mathematics. The accommodation of the schoolmaster is good, and somewhat exceeds the legal allowance. He possesses the maximum salary. The remotest part of the parish is at least five miles distant from the school; but, as this part is thinly inhabited, the inconvenience of the distance is not much felt, and is not so great as to render the erection of another school necessary; 40 is the average attendance. The school fees may amount to L. 20 a-year. It is pleasing to witness the solicitude of the poorest persons respecting the education of their children in the ordinary branches of instruction. Rather than forego this advantage, which they deem inestimable, they will submit to no small privations; and they cheerfully devote to its attainment a portion of their scanty and hard-earned gains. The history of the poor in this, as well as in other districts, unfolds many cases of endurance borne with alacrity, in order that they may procure not only the quarter's fees, but shoes and clothing, to enable their children to make as decent an appearance at school as those of their neighbours. Such has been the influence of the system of moral and religious instruction peculiar to our ecclesiastical establishment and parochial schools, that all vestiges of predatory habits have long disappeared from the borders,—whose inhabitants are now as remarkable as those of any part of Scotland for intelligence, persevering industry, and ardent piety. The total number of scholars at schools in the parish is 55.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons who annually obtain parochial aid is 12; each of whom receives nearly 2s. per week, or an yearly allowance of L. 5. The funds required for this purpose are supplied by legal assessment, of which the average annual amount is L. 60. That of the church collection is L. 6, and affords the means of relieving occasional indigence. The receiving of parochial aid is here reckoned no degradation. Most seem to demand it as that to which they have a legal claim; and instances are not uncommon of active and vigorous young men who do not think it incumbent on them to minister to the necessities of their aged parents, but who, without scruple or any sense of impropriety, consign them to the support of the parish. Such sentiments, common to the inhabitants of all the border parishes, have, not without reason, been ascribed to their contiguity to England.

Fuel.—Almost the only fuel used is coal, which is 14 miles distant, and brought from Northumberland. Though the peat, with the exception of that of Graden moss, is of a good quality, yet the mosses mentioned above are little dug. Coals can be procured at nearly as cheap a rate as peat; the cost of the former, including carriage and all other expenses, being about 7d. per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the period of the last Statistical Account, the population, in consequence of agricultural improvements and the extension of cultivated land, has somewhat increased. The number of inhabited houses, which was then 55, is now 79. The number of ploughs, which was then 30, is now 50,—to each of which a pair of horses belongs. The rent of the parish, which was formerly L. 2113, is now L. 5514, 6s. 8d.; that of the largest farm, which was formerly L. 400, is now nearly L. 800. The improved system of husbandry which has since that time been introduced, as well as the reclaiming of waste land, have thus obviously augmented the quantity of labour, and compensated for its anticipated diminution by the use of thrashing machines. Sources of industry have thus been multiplied, and what was lost in one department has been gained in another, no less subservient to the welfare of the community. The much greater demand for stock of all descriptions than formerly has prompted the farmers, for the purpose of rearing them, to subject to the agency of the plough much of their ground which they once deemed inadequate to remunerate them for the labour and expense of cultivation. Whether the general comfort and happiness of those who follow agricultural employments have also been advanced is doubtful. Their habits and intelligence, in no small degree, have kept pace with the spirit and improvements of the age. They are now better educated than formerly; books are more accessible to them, and not a few avail themselves of these sources of mental enjoyment. Still, their increased thirst of knowledge creates wants, for the supply of which their scanty means are incompetent, and thus gives rise to discontentment and fretfulness. A small augmentation of their wages would do much to improve their condition. To these sources, is to be traced that very general desire of emigration to Canada which of late years the class of hinds has manifested; and the children of those whom no worldly motive could have torn from their native hills and valleys, now, without a tear, nay, with a sort of exultation, leave the land of their fathers.

December 1834.

PARISH OF YETHOLM.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. JOHN BAIRD, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—YETHOLM is sometimes written Zetholm, Zettin, Yet-tam, and Yetham; which last is probably the original name of the parish. It seems to be derived from the Scoto-Saxon word “*Yet*,” or “*Gate*,” signifying a gate or road, and obviously connected with the Anglo-Saxon word *Zeal*, *Zete*, *Zate*, *porta*. Yet-holm is a border parish, and the villages of Town and Kirk Yet-holm are separated from England by a valley one mile in length, and about a quarter of a mile in breadth, which, in former times, must have presented a very easy access or entrance from the one country to the other; so that Yetholm or Yetham may signify the hamlet or dwelling upon the great entrance from England, or the adjoining part of Northumberland, into Scotland.

Extent—Boundaries.—The extent of the parish is 2 miles from nearly north-east to south-west, and 4 miles from north-west to south-east. It marches with England for a distance of about six miles, and no part of the parish is distant more than two miles from the border.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect and outline of the parish is hilly, though none of the hills are of any great elevation; the highest probably not exceeding 700 or 800 feet above the level of the sea. The lower hills are cultivated; and the higher, which are a portion of the Cheviot range, are clothed with a rich green sward to their summits, affording excellent pasture to many thousands of sheep. Several peaceful and romantic little valleys lie embosomed amid these hills; and the vale of the Bowmont itself, in which nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the parish reside, is only a larger vale of the same description. That part of this vale which lies in the parish of Yetholm is two miles long, and from a quarter to nearly half a mile in breadth, and appears

encircled on every side by hills, except on the east, where it opens into England. The sides of the hills immediately bounding the vale are all under tillage, and covered generally with a rich and light soil resting on gravel and rock. Towards the middle of this vale, and near the village of Town Yetholm, another valley, or tract of low level ground, the opposite sides of which rise to a considerable elevation, branches off in a westerly direction towards Yetholm Loch.

The climate of Yetholm is remarkably clear and healthy, and the temperature much milder than might be expected.

Hydrography.—Yetholm Loch, sometimes also called Primside Loch, is a sheet of water nearly a mile and a half in circumference: it abounds with pike and perch: and is frequented by a great variety of water-fowl; of which the rarer species are the wild swan, the goosander, and the Siberian goose; but these only appear in severe winters. Bowmont Water, in some very old charters, is also written Bol-bent and Bow-bent, and is probably so named from the curvature of its course. It has its source in the Cocklaw, and, after mingling with the College, it joins the Till, a tributary of the Tweed. The Bowmont is stocked with abundance of fine trout, and before the erection of a mill-dam or call on the Till at Etal, salmon-grilse and sea-trout were frequently caught. The course of the Bowmont is extremely rapid, and, from its vicinity to the hills, it is exposed to frequent high floods, which sometimes do incredible mischief to the haughs and meadow pasture, tearing up and carrying away the rich deep soil on its banks, and occasionally burying whole acres under a bed of unproductive sand and gravel. The practicability of embanking this river is an important subject of consideration to the proprietors; and those who have resided longest upon its banks are generally of opinion that this may be done, and at an expense which, when compared with the importance of the object, might be called inconsiderable.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks composing the hills in this parish belong to the transition series, and are the compact felspar-porphry and the pitchstone-porphry,—the latter of which affords very excellent specimens. The felspar-porphry is by far the most abundant rock, not only of the Yetholm Hills, but of the whole Cheviot range. Numerous nodules of agate and common jasper are met with in this rock; and these are also dispersed in abundance over the surrounding plains, and are very frequent in the gravel of the Bowmont Water and other streams. It is by no

means easy to ascertain in what manner the rock above described as the pitchstone-porphry, occurs in this parish. Apparently it is in the form of an irregular bed, or in detached masses subordinate to the felspar-porphry. Possibly it may be connected with the great dike of this rock, which is described as crossing the Cheviot range some miles to the west of this, in a direction nearly east and west. Subordinate, also, to the felspar-porphry, is the quartz rock which occupies the summit of Thirlestane hill, where both rocks are much intermixed with white steatite. On the same hill are quarries of the compact felspar rock, containing amygdaloidal crystals of calcareous spar, probably only a variety of the porphry, which here occurs of every sort of colour and structure. The most remarkable rock on this hill, perhaps, is a partial deposit of the new red sandstone in thin strata of a grey and reddish-brown colour, hard and compact, but unable for any long period to resist the action of the weather. This rock, as you descend from the higher ground of Yetholm, towards the north and west, into the vale of the Tweed, soon becomes the prevailing formation, and where it first occurs, it is found resting on the felspar-porphry. There is no appearance of metals of any kind in these rocks, farther than a considerable abundance of the sulphate of barytes and white steatite, in a rocky and romantic little glen on the top of Yetholm Law, called the "Tod Craigs," may seem to indicate the probable neighbourhood of copper or lead. From the circumstances stated, there seems little probability that coal, or even lime, will be discovered in this parish.

The bed of the Bowmont affords the finest sharp sand for building. The natural embankments of the river are all composed of gravel. The soil on the lower parts of the parish, which is sometimes of considerable depth, rests also on gravel. Hence in dry summers the crops are apt to be burnt up; and in moist seasons they succeed best.

In the vale of Cherrytrees are probably an hundred acres of moss, which, however, have been drained, and are now under cultivation. The average depth of the moss is eight feet, in some places fourteen feet. Trunks of various trees, as willows, birches, but especially oaks of a black colour, and extremely hard, were discovered in it.

Botany.—There are but few rare plants in the parish; and the whole range of the Cheviots, indeed, disappoints very much the expectations of the botanist. In the vale of Bowmont are the

Teesdalia nudicaulis, *Trifolium striatum*, *T. scabrum*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Dianthus deltoides* in great luxuriance and abundance, *Cichorium Intybus*, *Carduus nutans*, *Anchusa sempervirens*; and in the dry channel of the river *Thlaspi arvense*. On the hills are the *Rubus Chamæmorus*, *Cistus Helianthemum*, *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*, *Tormentilla reptans*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Hieracium pulmonarium*, *Cornus Suecica* (perhaps on the borders of the parish only, not in it.) In and on the margin of Yetholm Loch, and in other moist situations, are the *Cicuta virosa*, *Vaccinium oxycoccus* (abundant in Hoselaw Loch, on the borders of the parish,) *Potamogeton compressum*, *P. pectinatum*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, and *Lycopus Europæus* (abundant at Linton Loch,) *Typha latifolia*, *Ranunculus Lingua*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Solanum Dulcamara*, *Trollius Europæus*, *Leontodon palustre*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Gymnadenia viridis*, *Lythrum Salicaria*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Valeriana dioica*, *V. officinalis*, *Listera ovata*, *Sium angustifolium*, *Parnassia palustris*, &c.; a remarkable and dwarfish variety of the *Ranunculus auricomus* in a boggy situation among the hills, without any calyx, and claws or pores at the termination of the petals, and corresponding in its general characters with the *Anemone ranunculoides*, for which it was at first mistaken.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

It is said that, "in 1304, Edward the First came to Yetham on his return from his northern expedition;" (Caledonia, Vol. ii. p. 193.) There is a tradition that the Douglas appointed Yetholm kirk as the place of rendezvous for the Scottish army, before marching to the celebrated battle of Otterburn. It is also said, and perhaps with more truth, that after the battle of Flodden Field, the scene of which is situated about six miles to the east of the parish, the bodies of the Scottish nobles who fell in that engagement were brought and buried in the church and churchyard of Yetholm, as the nearest consecrated ground in Scotland to the field of battle. It is a better known fact, though traditional, I believe, like the others, that, in 1745, a small party of Scotch Highlanders, who followed the fortunes of Prince Charles, marched from the south through the parish and village of Yetholm, up the Bowmont Water, to receive some supplies of money, which had been remitted from France, and entrusted to the care of a Northumberland gentleman, Charles Selby, Esq. of Earl. An old man, lately deceased, in Town Yetholm, distinctly remembered having seen these Highlanders passing his father's house.

Eminent Characters.—Dr Scott, one of the lairds of Thirlestane,

a small property in this parish, (now in the possession of Adam B. Boyd, Esq. of Cherrytrees,) and one of the physicians of Charles II., seems to have been a chemist of some celebrity in his day. In the old mansion-house of Thirlestane, lately pulled down, a room, which he had probably used as his laboratory, continued to retain the name of the "warlock's room." * (See Note to the 11th chapter of Waverley, Vol. i. regarding the ancient family of Scott of Thirlestane in this parish.)

Antiquities.—Yetholm churchyard has probably been the burial place of many an ancient border chief. About two or three years ago, a stone coffin was discovered nearly six feet below the surface, and unfortunately was broken before it could be ascertained what it was. The stone in which the body lay was an entire mass. It contained a skeleton of unusual size. Still more lately, in the same churchyard, was discovered a square erection, consisting of four rough stones, set at right angles, and covered by a flat stone above, in which was found only a skull, which crumbled into dust when exposed for a short time to the air. On the borders of the parish, at Primside mill, under a large flat stone in the middle of the road, was found some years ago an urn, of very rude workmanship, and containing ashes. It was lately in the possession of Mr Oliphant at Marlefield.

There are two British forts in the parish, one situated on the top of Castlelaw, a hill on the farm of Vencheon; the other on the summit of a higher hill, called the Camp Hill, on the farm of Halterburn. They are fortified with two fosses and ramparts, are probably two or three hundred yards in diameter, and from their situation must have been very strong, almost impregnable fortifications.—On the top of Yetholm Law, there are the remains of a very extensive and singular fortification, the general form of which is square, but very irregular,—its irregularity, perhaps, occasioned by the inequality of the ground. It has been supposed to

* The celebrated Jean Gordon, and her granddaughter Madge or Majory Gordon, were both inhabitants of this parish; the former well known as "the prototype of the character of Meg Merrilees," the latter probably having "sat to the author of *Guy Mannering* as the representative of her person." (See *Blackwood's Mag.* for April, May, and Sept. 1817.) Madge was married to a man of the name of Young, and is still remembered by many in Kirk Yetholm,—a woman of remarkable stature and striking appearance. I find that most, or perhaps all, her children are registered in the session record of baptisms. From the same record it appears, that in her latter days she had been in very destitute circumstances. For several years the sum of 1s. 6d. seems to have been allowed almost weekly by the kirk-session of Yetholm to "Madge" or "Majory Gordon." I may also mention concerning the family of Will Faa, long king of the gipsies in the south of Scotland, (*Ibid.*) that they were all, to the number of twenty-two or twenty-four, baptized in Yetholm kirk, and many of them are registered. Several of his family still reside in Yetholm. His son "Will Faa" has succeeded to his father in the title at least of "king."

be a Roman camp, and the Romans were undoubtedly in this immediate neighbourhood.—On the farm of Mindrum, in Northumberland, on the very borders of the parish, was lately ploughed up a vase or bottle of brass containing 500 Roman silver coins.—On a little spot of ground, now a peninsula, but at one time probably an island of Yetholm Loch, there formerly stood one of those old towers or castles so frequent in the south of Scotland. It was the baronial residence of the Kers of Lochtower, a branch, probably, of the Kers of Cessford, or the Roxburgh family. This ancient tower and the surrounding scenery suggested to the author of *Waverley* the picture he draws of Avenel Castle in the Monastery. (See Note at the end of the 7th chapter, Vol. ii.)

Land-owners.—The number of heritors or proprietors in this parish is five. Of these, Mr Wauchope of Niddrie possesses nearly one-half of the parish, and is patron also of the church. The Marquis of Tweeddale is the second heritor, and now possesses what was formerly the property of Sir William Bennet of Grubbet, the friend and patron of the poet of Ednam and of Allan Ramsay, whose “Gentle Shepherd” has sometimes been ascribed to Sir William Bennet, and sometimes regarded as a juvenile production of Thomson.

It is unfortunate that there is only one heritor who resides in the parish, and therefore only one mansion-house. The grounds of Cherrytrees are very tastefully ornamented with wood. The house is a small, modern, but handsome building.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest parochial registers extant are from 1690, and from that period to the present they have been kept with considerable regularity. There is little doubt but earlier registers did exist; and there is a report that, accidentally I suppose, they were destroyed by the family of one of the former ministers of the parish. They consist of three large folio volumes completed, and a fourth is now adding to their number. There is nothing particularly interesting in them.

III.—POPULATION.

In the former Statistical Account, the parish is supposed to have doubled its population during last century; and the cause of this rapid increase is stated to be the destruction of several villages in the neighbouring parishes of Hownam, Morbattle and Linton, the inhabitants of which had withdrawn to the two villages of Yetholm, encouraged, perhaps, by the easy rate at which the proprietors of these villages had granted them feus. Another probable cause might be the practice of uniting many small farms into one large one.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| In 1755, the population was 690 | In 1811, | 1138 |
| 1786, | 1821, | 1280 |
| 1801, | 1831, | 1289 |
| 1070 | | |
| 1011 | | |

The increase of population in the country parts of the parish is owing entirely, of course, to the great improvements in the system of agriculture, and the consequent greater demand for labourers : the quantity of land now under cultivation in the parish being much more than doubled since the end of last century. The same cause has also affected the population of the two villages, the greater part of which depends for employment on the farmers. Other subordinate causes might be mentioned, as the great temptation to, and prevalence of, smuggling, from the vicinity of the villages to England,—an occupation from which a fifth or sixth of the population some years ago derived their means of subsistence ; and the facility of persons in decayed circumstances procuring a room or lodging in the villages, where, after a residence of three years, they very frequently become burdens on the parish.

The average number of children in a family is $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 ; but among the gipsies not less than 6 or $6\frac{1}{2}$. I have no means of ascertaining the average number of births, deaths, and marriages for the last seven years ; the registration of baptisms having been much neglected, and no registry of deaths being kept at all.

Character, &c. of the People.—The people, in general, enjoy remarkably good health. About the middle of last year (1829,) there were sixteen persons between eighty and ninety years of age ; and in the churchyard every sixth or seventh person whose memory is recorded seems to have died betwixt seventy and ninety years of age. With a few exceptions, the labouring classes seem, in general, to be in tolerably comfortable circumstances. The villages alone give employment to two or three butchers, and four bakers. As by far the greater part of the population, however, derive their subsistence from their employment by the farmers, whatever depresses the agricultural interest must tend more or less to injure them, by throwing them out of employment. Accordingly, during the last two years which have been so trying to farmers in general, the relief required to be extended to the poor has been much increased. The illegal practice of smuggling, till lately so prevalent in this neighbourhood, and so openly practised, must no doubt have had a very demoralizing influence upon a considerable portion of the population ; otherwise I am disposed to regard them, in general, as a quiet and well disposed people.

Gipsies.—Kirk Yetholm has long been known and somewhat celebrated as the residence of the largest colony in Scotland, I

believe, of that singular and interesting race of people, the Gipsies, whose origin is involved in so much uncertainty and doubt. I am indeed far from regarding the "muggers and tinkers" of Kirk Yetholm as the pure unmingled gipsy race, whose forefathers emigrated or were driven into Europe from Hindostan or Egypt. They are much less distinguishable as a peculiar race now than they appear to have been formerly. Still their language, their predatory and erratic propensities, and, in general, their dark or dusky complexion, black piercing eyes, and Hindoo features, sufficiently betray the original of this despised and neglected race. At what period they first arrived and settled in Kirk Yetholm I have not been able with any accuracy to ascertain. The family of the Faa's seem to have been the first who settled there, and probably about the beginning of last century.* Their number in 1797, according to the former Statistical Account, was 50. In 1816, according to the late Bailie Smith of Kelso (whose interesting account of the Kirk Yetholm gipsies was published in Blackwood's Magazine for May 1817), the number was 109. At present there are about 100. Of these, one gipsy female is married to a tradesman in the village; and one woman not belonging to the tribe is married to a gipsy, whom she accompanies in his wanderings.

That the gipsies of Kirk Yetholm have a peculiar language is fully credited by most of the other inhabitants of the village, many of whom have not only heard them converse with each other in this language, but also understand a number of the words. It was my intention to have given a list of such of these words as I have been able to collect; but I shall at present merely mention this general fact regarding them, that, on comparing this list with the specimens furnished by Hoyland from Grellman, I find that the language spoken by the Kirk Yetholm clans corresponds very nearly with that spoken by the English and Turkish gipsies, and that most of these also have been traced to an Indian origin. On this subject, however, they observe a profound secrecy.

Their occupations are various. There are two who manufacture horn into spoons: one tinker; and most or all of the rest are "muggers," or, as they prefer being called, "potters," or "travelers," who carry earthen-ware about the country for sale. These last also frequently employ themselves in making besoms and baskets. The gipsy, in general, enjoys but few of the comforts of home,—with the exception of the spoon-manufacturer, who must remain stationary to fabricate his wares, which the females usually dispose

* See Blackwood's Magazine, Nos. I. and II.

of at neighbouring markets, and in the surrounding country. The horn-spoons, or "cutties," are very generally used by the peasantry, and before harvest are purchased for the use of the reapers. Most readers are probably familiar with the appearance of a gipsy tent. It is generally situated in the least frequented parts of the country, probably beside some plantation, which supplies it at once with shelter and with fuel. The women carry about their manufactured articles for sale; while the men either remain with the cart, or occupy themselves in fishing and poaching, in both of which they are generally expert. The children accompany the females, or collect decayed wood for fuel. At night the whole family sleep under the tent, the covering of which is generally woollen cloth, and is the same usually that covers their cart during the day. Occasionally two or more families travel together. A dog, chained under the cart, protects their property, and at night gives warning of danger. Each family generally travels a particular district, seldom remaining more than a few days in one place. This is their mode of life, even in the coldest and wettest weather of spring, or the beginning of winter; and sometimes the tents are but scantily provided with warm and comfortable clothing. The ground, from which, while they sleep, they are separated only by a blanket or slight mattress laid on some straw, must frequently, of course, be completely saturated with rain; nevertheless I have never understood that these people are, even so much as others, troubled with colds and rheumatisms, to which this mode of life seems almost unavoidably to expose them. Indeed, both at home and abroad, they enjoy the best health. In cases of sickness they are usually unwilling to call in a medical practitioner. Before autumn all return who are able and willing to hire themselves as reapers. After harvest work is over, they set off once more to the country, where they continue until the severity of winter drives them home. At home they are usually quiet and peaceable. Their quarrels, which do not often take place, and are only among themselves, are very violent while they continue: and the subject or ground of quarrel is seldom known but to themselves. On these occasions they are much addicted to profane swearing, and but too much so at other times. I think it deserving of remark, that most of the murders for which gipsies have been condemned seem to have been committed upon persons of their own tribe, in the heat and violence of passion, the consequence of some old family feud, or upon strangers of other clans for invading what they regard as their territory, or the dis-

trict they have been wont to travel. Their character for truth and honesty is certainly not high. Their pilfering and plundering habits, practised chiefly when from home, are pretty generally known. Their money debts, however, they discharge, I believe, as punctually as others; and there is a species of honour among them, that, if trusted, they will not deceive, and a principle of gratitude, that, if treated kindly, they will not injure. Numerous instances can be referred to of the grateful sense they entertain of favours bestowed on them, and of the length of time they will remember a kindness done either to themselves or their relatives. A deep spirit of revenge is the darkest trait in their character. Yet may most of the savage features of the gipsy character be referred to their loose, wandering, and disorderly life; to their lamentable ignorance of the duties which they owe both to God and man, and their total want of restraint by any consideration, moral or religious. I am not aware that they are much addicted to ardent spirits, or that there is any habitual drunkard belonging to their tribe.

Most of the tribe are able to read, though very indifferently. They seem alive to the advantages of education, and speak of it as the only legacy which a poor man can leave to his children; but the migratory habits of the people prevent their children from remaining long enough at school ever to make much progress. The children are generally remarked as clever. One large family of children have been taught to read by their mother at home; and I have known a father (when he was able) who gave a lesson every day to his two children, in the course of their migrations. I may mention, as a proof of the anxiety of parents on this subject, that most of them have again and again professed their willingness to leave their children at home throughout the year for instruction, could they only afford it, and entrust them to the charge of some prudent person. This is a great step to their improvement, considering how extremely attached the gipsy parent generally is to his children;—that attachment to their offspring being one of those traits or features of character which distinguishes the tribe wherever they are found. Most of the younger children have attended the Sabbath school, when at home; and not only do the parents willingly send them, but even the children themselves seem delighted to attend. I have remarked in most of these children, what may account in some degree for this desire on their parts, a spirit of emulation, and strong desire to please those who will take the trouble to notice them. Even a few of the adults have attend-

ed the Sabbath school; but many are kept back by the shame of appearing more deficient than others of their own age.

A great majority of the children have been baptized; and there are probably not so many illegitimate children among them as among the lower ranks of society in general. They almost always intermarry in their own tribe, and are generally dissatisfied when this is not the case.

Of late, the greater number of the tribe have attended church occasionally, and some with exemplary regularity. Their ideas on the subject of religion, however, are extremely limited, and erroneous. Nor can they well be otherwise, considering their unsettled way of life, and their defective education. Yet they profess a general respect for religion; and, when absent from church, excuse themselves on the ground that they have no suitable or decent clothing.

I have not been able to ascertain whether they entertain any peculiar sentiments on the subject of religion. Like most ignorant persons, they are very superstitious.* All of them profess to belong to the Established church; and there are no Dissenters among them. Eight or nine of them are communicants. Most of them possess Bibles, which have been purchased, however, rather for the use of their children, when at school, than for any other purpose. Those who have not Bibles, would purchase them, they say, could they afford it. Most of them are indeed very poor, if we may judge from their apparel and their household accommodations, all of which are inferior to those possessed by the common class of labourers in the country. †

It is a fact not very creditable to the wisdom of Britain, that, while so much has been done for the heathen, no attempt has yet been made in Scotland, to civilize and enlighten those wandering tribes, who during three-fourths of the year, in pursuing the avocations, from which they derive their subsistence, have no pastor, no church, no school, no home, and are deprived of the means and opportunities of acquiring every kind of instruction. The attempt, if properly made, would, I am persuaded, be in numerous instances successful. Society would be the principal gainers by the success of any such scheme. They would render their own homes, persons, and property more secure; while they would discharge a long-neglected duty to a considerable number of their

* See Blackwood's Magazine, Nos. I. and II.

† Since writing the above, I have received a grant of Bibles and Testaments from the Edinburgh Bible Society, so that every poor gipsy family is now supplied with a copy of the scriptures.

fellow creatures and fellow subjects, and rescue an interesting race from infamy, ignorance, and vice.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are nearly 6000 (probably 5700) acres in the parish: of these more than 2600 are arable, and more than 3000 remain in permanent pasture. There is a common of 200 acres, called Yetholm Common, on which the inhabitants of Kirk Yetholm have the privilege of cutting turf and grazing their cattle: it is a wild moorish piece of ground, upon the borders, claimed, I believe, by both kingdoms. On the estates of Cherrytrees and Thirlestane, and on some small spots on the barony of Lochtower, there may be about 100 acres altogether, planted in wood. As remarked in the last Statistical Account, with one or two exceptions, “the proprietors seem but little disposed to plant, though there is abundance of land fit for no other purpose.” The planting of a few hundred acres, besides the beauty and ornament it would add to the parish, would greatly improve and increase the value of the remainder of the land, and afford, what is so much required in the more exposed parts of the parish, shelter to the farmers’ stock.

Husbandry.—There are about 450 acres round the villages of Town and Kirk Yetholm, farmed by the inhabitants in lots, varying from 2 to 30 acres. These fields are held from year to year; but, so long as the occupiers are able to pay their rents, they are very rarely disturbed. The rents they bring are from L. 2 to L. 3, 10s. an acre; and, considering the nature of the soil, and the situation of the country, this is regarded as extremely high. Many of the occupiers of these fields are industrious tradesmen and day-labourers, who, at their leisure hours, or when not otherwise engaged, employ themselves in the cultivation of their little farms, or retain them only for the convenience of a cow’s pasture. The other small tenants, who farm a greater number of acres, are occupied more exclusively in their cultivation. They keep, for this purpose, one or two horses, with which they also drive coals to the other inhabitants of the villages, or to Jedburgh, where they obtain a higher price for them; or drive lime to the farmers, who usually prefer hiring to driving with their own horses the manure of this description which they require. The other farms in this parish are from about 400 to 1800 acres. The larger farms consist more than one-half of sheep pasture. The duration of the leases is from sixteen to twenty-one years. The older cultivated lands are enclosed with hedges; the more lately enclosed lands,

with dry stone walls; and the sheep pastures, with what is called a "ring-fence," or "march-fence;" i. e. a dry stone dike or wall surrounding the farm. The mode of cultivation adopted in this parish is usually what is called the four and five-shift rotation; the former being practised on the village lands, the latter on the larger farms. This mode of husbandry consists in taking a crop of turnips the first year; a crop of wheat or barley, sown off with grass, the second year; a crop of hay the third year; and a crop of oats the fourth year. According to the five-shift rotation, the ground is allowed to lie in pasture the fourth year, and on the fifth it is ploughed up and sown with oats. In some cases the ground remains in pasture two years, which is called the sixth-shift husbandry. There is no bare fallow in the parish, or extremely little. One-fifth nearly of the arable land of the parish is annually sown off with turnips.

Probably one-third of the oats, and nearly two-thirds of the barley grown in the parish, may be sold and exported. All the wheat, and probably more than is grown in the parish, is consumed in it: all the other crops, as of hay, turnips, potatoes, &c. are consumed at home.

The manure usually employed is common manure and lime, which latter is driven a distance of ten miles, and costs 10d. per boll, or 3s. 4d. a cart-load, a single horse drawing four bolls. Forty bolls of lime are usually given to the acre. Bone manure, which is brought from Berwick, a distance of twenty miles, has been extensively used of late years in the parish, and is found to succeed remarkably well: it is used for turnips, 2 quarters or 16 bolls being required per acre.

Live-Stock.—The farmers depend less upon the agricultural produce of the land than upon their sheep. The sheep usually preferred for the higher parts of the parish, or hilly pastures, are the Cheviot. The Leicester, or long-woolled sheep, are preferred for the lower and cultivated parts of the parish; and on farms partly arable and partly hill pasture, a cross between the Cheviot and Leicester is found to answer very well. The number of sheep in the parish may be about 4800: of these about 1800 may be Leicester, 1000 Cheviot, and 2000 half-bred, or a cross between the other two. Few or no lambs are sold. The cattle usually preferred, and, indeed, the only breed of cattle in the parish, are the short-horned or Teesdale, both for giving milk and for fattening.

Rent and Price of Land, &c.—The average rent of the arable

land may be L. 1, 5s., and of the pasture land 10s. per acre. The price of land in the parish varies, of course, according to its quality: good land, per statute acre, has been sold as high as L. 100; but the average price of good land may be considered about L. 50 per acre, and of pasture land L. 10. The price of land is here generally calculated to be equal to twenty-seven years' rent. Owing to the fall in the price of produce, the value of land is much deteriorated, and pasture-land especially, has fallen nearly one-half in value. The total land-rent of the parish, as nearly as I can ascertain, is L. 5600. In 1797, it was L. 2104; and, in the recollection of individuals then alive, it had increased in value three times. Two or three proprietors farm their own land.

At the beginning of this century the spirit of improvement was very great. In 1797, there were only 1170 acres under tillage; whereas now, there are upwards of 2600 (or probably many more.) At the end of last century, sufficient corn was not grown in the parish for home consumption; now a considerable proportion is exported; while yet the same number of sheep is maintained. The farms are cultivated according to the newest and most approved methods, and in no respect is the system or mode of agriculture inferior to that of any other part of the country; but, from the high state of the rents at present, there is no encouragement whatever given by the landlords to their tenants for the improvement of their farms.

Commerce.—There are no branches of commerce or manufactures carried on in this parish, with the exception, perhaps, of the illicit commerce of smuggling whisky across the border, which, I have said, formerly gave employment and subsistence to one-fifth or one-sixth of the inhabitants of the two villages. Of this commodity, I am informed that from L. 10,000 to L. 20,000 worth annually have been sold from Yetholm into England in this manner; but now the quantity disposed of illegally for the English market is scarcely worth calculating. Within the last three or four years, effectual means have been taken by a stricter police, and by heavy fines imposed upon delinquents, to put an end to this demoralizing and illicit traffic, which have succeeded in a great measure for the present. A considerable trade is also carried on here in buying cows in Northumberland, and driving them for sale to the Edinburgh markets.

Rate of Wages.—Masons, 2s. or 2s. 6d. per day; carpenters, 2s. or 2s. 6d.; tailors, 1s. 6d. with meat; women labourers, 8d. to 1s.; men do. in summer, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; do. do. in harvest, 2s. with meat.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|---|
| Grain of all kinds, | - | - | - | - | L. 5506 | 5 | 0 |
| Potatoes, turnips, &c. | - | - | - | - | 3051 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, | - | - | - | - | 687 | 10 | 0 |
| 3000 acres of permanent pasture, | - | - | - | - | 2760 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | L. 12,004 | 15 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages and Markets.—The only villages in this parish are Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm, in both of which there has been usually a Baron Bailie ; one appointed by the Marquis of Tweeddale, the other by Mr Wauchope of Niddrie, the superiors of the villages. In Town Yetholm there was formerly a weekly market, which is now discontinued. Kelso, Coldstream, and Berwick are the nearest weekly markets.

Means of Communication.—No public conveyances, as coaches, &c. pass through the parish. There is no post-office at present—a disadvantage that might easily be remedied. There is a communication by carriers between Kelso and Yetholm, five days in the week, and more rarely with Coldstream and Berwick. The length of turnpike-road in the parish is four miles, generally kept in good repair, and managed by the trustees for the district of Kelso. There are two toll-houses on these roads, both of which are let annually, by public sale, and at present for L. 180. The turnpike-roads communicate with Kelso, Coldstream, Berwick, Wooler, Jedburgh, and with the coal and lime districts. The bye-roads, kept in repair by the statute-labour money, are about five miles in length. A very neat bridge, erected last year across the Bowmont, between the villages of Town and Kirk Yetholm, is one of the greatest improvements that have taken place in the parish for many years.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated in Kirk Yetholm, and no part of the population is distant from it more than two miles. It is a very wretched and insufficient building. An addition, larger than the original church, was built to the west end of it in 1609. The age of the east end is unknown. It is much too small for the population. Usually, it is most uncomfortably crowded, and still one-third nearly of the church-going population are unable to find accommodation. It is but fair, however, to state, that a considerable number of those who attend the Established church are from the English border, the inhabitants of which are generally Scotch and Presbyterians. The

church affords accommodation for only 400 ; the population being nearly 1300. It is most inconvenient in point of shape, being nearly 80 feet long, and from 17 to 20 broad. But, as this goes to press, the heritors have given their consent to the erection of a new church, which, it is hoped, will be commenced early in spring. The heritors have lately provided liberally for the accommodation of the minister, by repairing and building a large addition to the old manse (built in 1788,) and it is now a very commodious and even handsome building. The glebe is generally considered to consist of from 18 to 20 acres, about one-half of which is excellent land. The amount of stipend is 14 chalders, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Mr Wauchope of Niddrie is patron. The last augmentation was granted in 1820. The valued rent of the parish is L. 7049, 13s. 4d. Scots.

There are two dissenting chapels in the parish, both of which are in Town Yetholm. One belongs to the Old Light Burghers, the other to the United Associate Synod. Both have been built within the last fifty years. The ministers are paid from the seat rents and collections, the one being promised, I believe, L. 70, the other L. 108 annually. Of old and young in the parish, 888 may belong to the Established church ; and the number of Dissenters may be about 412. The number of communicants at the Established church in July last was 460. Of these, however, several are from England. The church is remarkably well attended, and the people generally are attentive to the public ordinances of religion. One probable cause of the number of Dissenters may be the want of accommodation in the parish church.

Education.—The parish school-house, erected in 1833, is, without exception, the handsomest building of the kind in the county. It is attended by 100 scholars ; and the amount of the teacher's fees may be L. 30 a-year ; but he has also L. 6 as clerk to the heritors. There are also two unendowed schools in the parish ; one in Town and the other in Kirk Yetholm. The number attending each may be from 60 to 80. Several of these children attend from the borders. The salary of the parochial teacher is the maximum, or two chalders of oatmeal. The fees at all the schools per quarter are, for reading, 2s. 6d. ; for reading and writing, 3s. ; for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. 6d. ; for Latin, Greek, practical mathematics, and geography, 10s. 6d. Latin and Greek are not taught in the private schools.

The total number of scholars at all the schools in the parish is

240; of whom about 40 are from England and adjoining parishes in Scotland.

Under fifteen years of age, there are very few, if any, of a proper age who cannot read and write. Above fifteen years of age there may be many who cannot write, but few or none who cannot read. The people seem, in general, to be alive to the benefits of education.

Literature.—There is one parochial library, consisting of 500 volumes; one congregational library connected with one of the dissenting meetings; and two Sabbath school libraries.

Charitable and Economical Institutions.—There is a Friendly Society, which has been in existence for several years. Its capital is L. 370. It might probably be made much more useful, but it seems somehow or other to be mismanaged. A society was lately established in the parish for the purpose of supplying the poor, especially poor and single females, with spinning. Its capital is very small, and is daily diminishing; otherwise the benefits of this institution might be greatly extended. A Clothing Society has been more lately established.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor upon the roll in this parish is very great. The average number each year during the last seven years who have received parochial relief is sixty-five persons. The average sum raised yearly for this purpose by assessment (one-half of which is paid by the heritors, the other half by the tenants,) during the same number of years, is L. 252, 8s. 10d. The average sum, therefore, which each pauper receives in the year is L. 3, 17s. 6½d. The session may have a sum of from L. 15 to L. 20 at their disposal, from L. 12 to L. 15 of which are raised by collections at church, and left in the hands of the session, to be distributed at their discretion among the poor of the parish, either on or not on the roll. It is unfortunate, that, with very few exceptions, there is little disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid; neither do they seem to consider it in any sense as degrading.

Obviously one great cause of the number of the poor in this parish, is the facility with which aged and single persons, who have probably spent their lives in England, where they find it extremely difficult to establish a residence, can procure a room or lodging, of any dimensions, in the villages of Yetholm, where they contrive to subsist, by their own labour, for a certain number of years; and finally, when unable to work, get enrolled on the

permanent list of poor. On two sides, they are surrounded by uninhabited and uncultivated mountains, and on the other side by a country more than one-half of which remains in permanent pasture. There are no trade, commerce, or manufactures carried on in the parish. It is, therefore, obviously impossible that the neighbourhood should furnish employment and subsistence to one-half of the 1000 persons residing in Town and Kirk Yetholm, especially as farmers have, residing on their land, and under their roof, the requisite number of farm-servants. The consequences have been, smuggling and an excessive proportion of pauperism. To diminish, therefore, the number of houses, would be to diminish the vice and pauperism of the parish.

Fairs, Inns, &c.—There are two annual fairs in each of the villages: the Kirk Yetholm summer fair being for the sale of Cheviot hogs, and cattle: the Town Yetholm summer fair being for lambs and wool: the Kirk Yetholm winter fair is for the sale of ewes, wedders, and cattle: at the Town Yetholm winter fair, nothing is now done. There are three or four inns in Town Yetholm, and three in Kirk Yetholm. Some of these furnish comfortable accommodation for travellers. Besides these there are seven houses where ale and spirits are sold, and the latter chiefly for the English market. The imperial weights and measures are now universally used.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The parish of Yetholm is far from manure and markets. Its situation on the borders of England presents great temptation to smuggling; and the assessment for the relief of the poor is very high. The comforts of the industrious part of the population would be increased, the poor rates would be lightened, smuggling would be permanently prevented, and the morals of the people improved, by the diminution of the town, and by the equalization of the duty on spirits in both kingdoms. There is no improvement so much wanted in the parish as planting, both for utility and ornament. I have already mentioned the disadvantage to the parish, arising from the insufficient state of the church. The non-residence of heritors may be mentioned as another disadvantage. Were these disadvantages removed, the salubrity of the atmosphere, and beauty and variety of the scenery, might induce persons in more comfortable circumstances to settle in the parish.

Revised January 1835.

PARISH OF CRAILING.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. ANDREW MILROY, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries.—THE parish of Crailing (comprehending, under this name, the ancient parishes of Nisbet and Spittal annexed to it,) may be described as occupying about 4 square miles in length and breadth. It is bounded on the north by a portion of the parish of Roxburgh, which extends in that direction; on the south by Jedburgh; on the west by Ancrum; and on the east by Eckford.

Topographical Appearances.—In its general aspect, it presents the appearance of a wide valley with sloping banks on either side, the Tiviot flowing eastward through the centre, and dividing the parish into two nearly equal portions.

Name.—Although the name Crailing is the general designation of the whole parish, the two sides of the river still retain their distinctive appellations. Nisbet constitutes the division on the north of the Tiviot, and Crailing the southern half. Of the origin of these names I cannot pretend to give any authoritative account. Crailing has been supposed to derive its designation from being situated on the banks of the Oxnam water,—*Crai-lyn* (according to Chalmers in his *Caledonia*) signifies the brisk-pool, and this name he imagines to have been given by the British settlers on the Oxnam, from the occasional ebullitions of this mountain stream.* This rivulet intersects the Crailing or south side of the parish, descending northward till it join the Tiviot about half a mile below the village. It has its source in the border hills, but derives its name from the parish of Oxnam, through which it flows. In the bed of this stream, which in summer is exceedingly small, but in winter swells rapidly, and comes down in powerful torrents, there

* That the name may have some connection with its situation on the banks of the Oxnam, is rendered more probable from the circumstance of two places being designated by the same term. About two miles farther up the stream, stood the parish of Upper Crailing, now called Crailing Hall, and included in the parish of Jedburgh.

are picked up good specimens of jasper. Its banks, as it flows through the grounds near Crailing House, are precipitous, and present a front of soft red sandstone. Nisbet also seems to owe its name to its locality. It is an appellation applied to several places both in England and Scotland; and the site of all of them, having some proximity to a hill, vindicates the supposition of its being of Saxon origin. *Nes, Nese, Nase*, in that language, signifies a promontory or projection. According to this conjecture, the idea conveyed by "Nisbet" is its being the front or nose-piece of a hill,—a characteristic applicable enough to the Nisbet in question; for on this side of the parish the ground rises to a considerable acclivity, which bears the name of Piniel-heugh, and is a point visible at the distance of many miles. This green hill commands a most pleasing and extensive view of the whole country around, taking in the windings of the Tiviot westward, Tweeddale to the north, the range of Cheviots southward, and the whole Merse as far as the ocean in an eastern direction. It has been rendered more conspicuous by a monumental pillar erected on its summit by the late Marquis of Lothian, in commemoration of the victory obtained at Waterloo.*

Piniel-heugh is a formation of whinstone. Nearer the river, and close to the village of Nisbet, are found excellent strata of sandstone of a light colour, and of sufficient hardness for the purposes of building. Two quarries have been opened, from which were obtained the stones employed in building the new mansion at Monteviot; some of the blocks measured twelve feet in length.

Soil, &c.—In the former Statistical Account, a proof of the fineness of the soil and mildness of climate is furnished, which is worth preserving. It appears that about that time (forty years ago) an attempt was made to cultivate tobacco in Scotland. "In one season a tenant in this district drew L. 115 for tobacco plants, and afterwards raised a crop on 12 or 13 acres, which he sold upon the ground for L. 320: but an act of Parliament intervening, the purchaser was unable to fulfil his bargain, and the farmer was compelled to dispose of his tobacco to Government at only 4d. per pound, at which rate it brought him only L. 104."

The soil of this parish is peculiarly dry and favourable to health,

* This monument is a cylindrical column, with a spiral staircase. Its height is 150 feet. It stands on an ample base, and was built in a very substantial way from whinstone quarried on the spot. It bears the following inscription:—To the Duke of Wellington and the British Army, William Kerr VI. Marquis of Lothian and his Tenantry dedicate this monument; XXX June MDCCCXV.

nor are there any particular diseases which prevail amongst us. I know not whether it be worth while to state, that during one season two or three fatal instances of croup occurred among the children at Nisbet. As this afflictive malady is apt to be induced by humidity, it is just possible that the vicinity of the Tiviot in a wet season may be ranked among the exciting causes.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The parish registers do not reach farther back than the beginning of last century, nor do they contain any facts worthy of notice.

Eminent Men.—This parish, however, is not unconnected with events well calculated to invest it with historical interest. The circumstance of its having been the scene of the ministry of Calderwood, the church historian, and the birth-place of Samuel Rutherford, is sufficient to render it a spot hallowed by associations dear to all true-hearted Scotchmen, nay, to every lover of pure religion and rational liberty.

Both these facts are well ascertained. The evidence in respect to the latter, *i. e.* the birth of Rutherford, is not so circumstantial as could be wished; and one cannot help regretting that no local incidents have been preserved connected with the early days of that great and good man, who bore so conspicuous a part in the struggles maintained by our church against the assaults of regal and spiritual domination. Yet the claims of Nisbet to the honour of his birth-place rest on grounds amounting to highest probability. Wodrow mentions, that “he was born of mean but honest parents in Tiviotdale.” The tradition of his birth at Nisbet was so general, that within these few years the house in which he was born was pointed out, or at least a house situated on the same spot; and Rutherford himself, in a letter, written in 1655, to the Rev. John Scott, minister of Oxnam, a neighbouring parish, says, while regretting his being unable to pay a visit to that quarter, and speaking of the state of religion there, “My soul’s desire is, that the wilderness, and that place to which I owe my first breathing, may blossom as the rose.” He was born most probably in the year 1600, although the date cannot be precisely determined.*

Of Calderwood’s connection with this parish the information is more abundant. He was settled as minister in 1604. From his own history we find, that, in 1608, he, along with George Johnston, minister at Ancrum, declined the authority of Law, then

* See Account of the Life of Rutherford, by Thomas Murray, F. A. S. E.

Bishop of Orkney, afterwards of Glasgow, as visitor to the presbyteries of Merse and Tiviotdale. This resistance had nearly brought down on them signal punishment; but, by "earnest dealing of the Earl of Lothian and the Earl of Dunbar in favour of the said Mr David, their punishment resolved into a confinement within their own parishes." In the course of time, however, a relaxation of this sentence was obtained, although liberty was refused Calderwood to compear at presbyteries or synods, where his independent spirit and great influence rendered him a formidable opponent to Episcopal measures. But he seems eagerly to have watched over the liberties and purity of the church; for in 1617 we find him at Edinburgh, joining in a protestation against the assumption of a power on the part of the King to devise and conclude matters relating to the external policy of the kirk, without special advice and determination of the General Assembly. The part he took in this matter proved the cause of his banishment. He was summoned to compear before the High Court of Commissioners at St Andrew's, on the 8th July. King James, who had lately before this come to visit his native dominion, presided in person on this occasion, and questioned Calderwood as to his resistance and non-conformity. A particular account of the whole examination and answers has been handed down, and is interesting, inasmuch as it affords a true specimen of the difficulties with which the faithful Presbyterians had to struggle, and of the vehemence with which their spiritual liberty was assailed. The spirit of this venerable man sustained him to testify that he would yield "a passive but not an active obedience" to the King's commands, when he regarded them as infringing on the privileges of the church, *i. e.* that he would patiently suffer rather than comply. The result was, that the King became incensed, and Calderwood, after being detained in ward in the tolbooth of St Andrew's, was ordained to be banished from his Majesty's dominions. In consequence of this sentence he went to Holland, and there published his famous work *Altare Damascenum*, which is said to have caused inexpressible vexation to King James. On the death of James in 1625 he returned to his native country; but was not again connected with this parish. He was afterwards minister of Pencaitland, and his name appears in the proceedings of the celebrated Assembly at Glasgow of 1638. In 1651 he terminated his mortal career at Jedburgh, in the neighbourhood of the scene of his early labours. Of these labours, in so far as regards the discharge of

the great though unostentatious duties of a parish minister, no notices are preserved. Yet the excellence of his principles, and activity of his character, leave no room for doubt that "they fill an ample page in that book of the Divine remembrance, from which no work of faith, no labour of love, is obliterated." One indirect, yet strong proof of the estimation in which he seems to have been held among his people is furnished in the fact, that Lord Cranstoun, the proprietor of Crailing, who, from the vicinity of his mansion, must have had the best opportunities of knowing his private worth and public usefulness, used the most strenuous exertions to procure the remission of his sentence, and the continuance of his labours amongst them. The son of this nobleman, in presence of the Lords of Secret Council at Glasgow, 27th July, entered into an obligation of 500 merks for Calderwood's leaving the country before Michaelmas, and thus obtained his liberty in the interval. Lord Cranstoun himself accompanied his pastor to Carlisle, and there presented to the King a petition in his favour, that he might be confined within his own parish. But this was not granted; and, in like manner, other exertions which he made were frustrated, through the malignant interference of the bishops, particularly through the underhand agency of Mr John Abernethie, "who," as Calderwood states it, "being minister at Jedburgh, a town in the south, and Bishop of Caithness, a diocese in the remotest part of the north, thought he could not be at ease in Jedburgh if Mr David was suffered to stay at home at Crailing,—a village distant but two miles from Jedburgh."

Land-owners.—The Marquis of Lothian is sole proprietor of Nisbet side,* which comprises more than one-half of the parish. The property lies most beautifully, stretching from west to east on the north bank of the Tiviot. The family residence, which is called Monteviot, † is at the western extremity. The old house is an extremely plain building, and affords but small accommodation; but one wing of a new and splendid mansion is already completed. It is intended to consist of three parallelograms, the plan being of an irregular but picturesque character, in the Gothic style of the later period.

* This assertion has to be qualified by stating, that, in consequence of the Tiviot having changed its course within the last fifty years, one or two fields of the Crailing property are now on its north side.

† This is the ancient Spittal, which was an hospital belonging to the abbey at Ancrum. Near the site of this mansion there were distinct traces of a burying-ground, and a considerable number of tomb-stones were lately dug out. None of the inscriptions, however, contained any thing remarkable.

The whole of the south side constituted the estate of Crailing, which was long in the possession of the Lords Cranstoun. The house and lands (with the exception of one farm belonging to William Turnbull, Esq. of Fenwick, and about thirty acres of Lord Minto's,) are now the property of John Paxton, Esq. of Crailing, by whose father the present mansion was built. It is a plain modern building, and stands beautifully on a rising ground, with the Oxnam winding below. The interest and beauty of the pleasure-grounds are much increased by the course of this mountain stream. A sweet little glen, formed by its meanderings, and its banks thickly covered with wood, give a variety to the scene of which one has no idea till close upon it.

Antiquities.—The parish contains nothing memorable in the way of antiquities, excepting the vestiges of two once strongly fortified encampments at the top of Piniel-heugh.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has varied but little for many years. In the former Statistical Report, the number of inhabitants is stated at 672. By last census, it amounted to 733, showing a trifling decrease from the census of 1821, which is easily accounted for, from the incidental circumstance of one of the large farms being at the time without a resident tenant.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| The number of families in the parish is | - | - | - | - | 133 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | 71 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | - | 22 |

Character, &c. of the People.—The habits of the people are orderly and industrious. The peasantry over the whole district are a peculiarly well-conducted class,—sober, intelligent, contented with their situation, and in general manage their limited means so as to enjoy the necessities of life essential to their comfort.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Almost the whole land is arable, and a great part of it of the best quality. About 300 acres are planted. There are several plantations of considerable extent: and in the policies of Monteviot and Crailing House, there are many fine trees of great age. The soil is generally of a light loam, and is apt to suffer from drought, but in ordinary seasons yields very abundant crops. The mode of cultivation generally pursued is, to have one-fifth part of the ground under turnip crop, two-fifths in corn, and the remaining two in grass. The turnip crop answers all the purpose of fal-

lowing, and wheat or barley is sown after it. One-half of the turnips is generally led off to fatten cattle kept in the stall, and the other half eaten with sheep in the field. The farms are generally large, and let on leases of nineteen years. The tenantry are most respectable,—possessed of capital,—well-skilled in their profession,—and enterprising. The great obstacle with which they have to contend is the distance from lime and manure; but such is their spirit, that great quantities of lime are regularly brought from the neighbourhood of Etal, a carriage of thirty miles. As a substitute for manure, bone dust has been introduced into pretty general use for the last four or five years, and by this means the bulk of turnip crop has been materially increased. Within the last twenty years, the lands on Nisbet side have been enclosed with hedges of thorn.

Produce.—The average gross amount of produce yearly raised in the parish is as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---------------|----------|-----|
| 540 acres in wheat, at L. 8 per acre, | - | - | - | L. 4320 | 0 | 0 |
| 370 acres in barley, at L. 6, 10s. per acre, | - | - | - | 2405 | 0 | 0 |
| 810 acres in oats, at L. 6 per acre, | - | - | - | 4860 | 0 | 0 |
| 850 acres in turnips and potatoes, at L. 4, 10s. per acre, | - | - | - | 3625 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 acres in pease, | - | - | - | 125 | 0 | 0 |
| 190 acres in hay, at L. 5 per acre, | - | - | - | 950 | 0 | 0 |
| 2420 acres of artificial grass in pasture, at 25s. per acre, | - | - | - | 3025 | 0 | 0 |
| 910 acres in permanent pasture, | - | - | - | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| 6115 acres. | | | | Total amount, | L. 20110 | 0 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are three villages, or rather hamlets, in this parish,—Crailing, Nisbet, and Upper Nisbet. The village of Crailing was at one time considerable, but within the last forty years has been diminishing, many of the houses having been taken down. There are no small feuars; all the houses belong to the proprietors of the land.

Means of Communication.—The road from Hawick to Kelso, forming part of the great road from Carlisle to Berwick, passes through Crailing village. Its course through the parish for nearly two and a-half miles is agreeably shaded on either side by a row of forest trees, consisting of beech, ash, and elm intermingled. During the summer 1833, a great and much-wanted improvement has been effected by the construction of an elegant bridge across the Oxnam. Previous to this new erection, almost the whole passage was through a ford, which was frequently unpleasant from the increase of the stream by rain, though seldom dangerous. There was, indeed, an old bridge; but, in consequence of being considerably above the direct line, and of inconvenient access, it was little

used, unless when the water at the ford was greatly swollen. Our means of communication are very abundant. The market-towns of Jedburgh and Kelso are close in the neighbourhood,—the former at a distance of three and a-half miles, and the latter of six. And twice every week a stage-coach from Hawick to Kelso passes through the village. A post-gig passes and returns daily from Kelso to Jedburgh, by which all persons who choose to enter into an arrangement with the post-offices of these towns get their letters brought to them. We have, besides, a weekly carrier to and from Edinburgh.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is a very plain building in the exterior, but comfortable enough within.* It was built nearly eighty years ago, and is situated on the Crailing side of the parish, on a small eminence about a quarter of a mile north from the village. Forty new sittings have been added to it within these few years, and it may contain with ease 300 persons. Divine service is on the whole well attended. None of the parishioners are above three miles distant; and the only inconvenience experienced is from the Tiviot intersecting the parish. This is somewhat remedied by the establishment of a ferry-boat, upheld by the heritors, in which a free passage is secured to church. On week days a penny is exacted as fare from each passenger. It happens, however, that at times the water comes down in so large a flood as to cover the haugh lands on Crailing-side, in which case it is quite impassable. The nearest bridge is that at Ormistoun, in Eckford parish, about two miles and a-half farther down.

Nisbet being formerly a separate parish, had its church and burying-ground. Of the church scarce any trace remains, but the churchyard is still used as a place of interment by the inhabitants on that side of the river. For a long time after the union of the parishes it appears that divine service was performed in the church at Nisbet,—I suppose on alternate Sabbaths. The last notice to this effect, which I find in the parish registers, bears date 1713.

This church, of which not a relic is now preserved, was centuries ago the scene of important debate among the ecclesiastics of that age. The tithes of Nisbet, as well as of Crailing, had been granted by David I. to the canons of the monastery founded at Jedburgh. It seems that the monastery lay within the bounds of the diocese

* There are still the ruins of the old church of Crailing; it stood close to Crailing House. After the removal of the church to its present site, and the enclosure of a new burying-ground, many of the parishioners insisted on laying their dead where rested the dust of their fathers.

of Glasgow; a circumstance which gave rise to questions between the Bishop and Abbot as to supremacy.—“At length, however, these altercations in respect to dignities, liberties, customs, rents, vicarages, lands, pastures, &c., were brought to a quiet end in A. D. 1220, by the arbitration of five discreet referees within the chapel of Nisbet before many auditors.”

There are no dissenting places of worship in this parish, but secession from the Established Church has existed for many years to a great extent in this district. It is not the province of a report like this to assign the causes. It may be but justice, however, to state, that I have hitherto seen among dissenters very little of bigotted attachment to their own sect, and scarce anything of hostility to the Establishment. The vicinity of Jedburgh, where there are three dissenting churches,—two of the United Secession, and one Relief,—affords ample opportunity for dissent; and here all the dissenters in this parish, with the exception of one or two families, find accommodation. In regard to the relative numbers of churchmen and dissenters, it may be mentioned, that, out of twelve resident tenants, (exclusive of proprietors,) eight with their families are members of the Established Church, and out of a total of 129 families, 66 belong to the Establishment, and 63 to the Secession or Relief bodies.

We have no regularly constituted societies for religious purposes, but collections have been made in the church from time to time in aid of the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad, and these have been liberal and encouraging; thus the average of those collections in furtherance of the General Assembly's scheme for diffusing the Gospel in India, gives L. 8 odds to each.

The manse was built twenty years ago, is in good repair, and sufficiently large and commodious. Its present site is about the eighth of a mile farther north than where the old manse stood. The glebe lies chiefly in front, and the public road passes through part of it. The extent of glebe is about $9\frac{1}{2}$ English acres, and the land is of excellent quality. The minister of this parish is titular of the vicarage tithes, and formerly drew in kind the teind of lambs, wool, hay, hemp, and lint. In 1818, this privilege was commuted by authority of the Court of Session into L. 60 of money, and the grain stipend settled at thirteen chalders, one-half oat-meal, the other half barley. The average of the last five years gives about L. 250 per annum. There is an allowance, besides, of L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Education.—The parochial school is in the village of Crailing. The teacher, besides house and garden, has a salary of nearly L. 30, and L. 3, 15s. arising from a sum of money (1500 merks) left at interest with magistrates of Jedburgh, by one of the Lords Cranstoun, and a Bailie George Cranstoun. He enjoys also the emoluments belonging to the offices of session and parish clerk. We have also a flourishing school at Nisbet, which is under the control and patronage of the Marquis of Lothian, and is supported at his Lordship's expense; each of the tenants on the estate contributing also a certain proportion. The salary of the teacher, in addition to house and garden, is L. 20, and his other emoluments may amount to L. 20 or L. 30 more. At this school, besides the usual branches, the classics are frequently taught. The number of children receiving education at both schools throughout the year may be stated at between 70 and 80, and the school fees are as follows, 2s. 6d. per quarter for English reading; 3s. when writing is also learned, and 4s. when instructions are given both in arithmetic and writing.

Library.—At Nisbet there is a limited but excellent collection of books, kindly furnished by the Marquis of Lothian, for the use of those residing on his property. The teacher acts as librarian, and the spirit of reading prevails particularly during the winter months. At Crailing also we have a division of Brown's Itinerating Libraries, containing fifty volumes of useful and improving reading.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are supported by an assessment. At this time there are 25 persons on the roll, and the aid granted to each may be stated at between L. 4 and L. 5 per annum. The church collections amount to nearly L. 12 per annum, and are employed in giving occasional aid to the necessitous not on the poors'-roll, and in paying the school-fees of children whose parents are in difficult circumstances. It is expected that the voluntary contributions at church will be so increased as to reduce the rate of assessment,—the heritors having, by a late act, liberally placed the whole of these funds at the disposal of the kirk-session, and relieved them of the payment of church officers' salaries, (viz. session-clerk, beadle, presbytery and synod clerk,)—with which the revenues of kirk-sessions are generally burdened, and against which a prejudice prevails in some places so as to injure the collections. It must be acknowledged with regret, that the feeling of independence and of reluctance to accept parochial

aid, which once distinguished the Scottish peasantry, is not manifested to any great degree in the border districts.

Inns, &c.—Small as the parish is, I am sorry to state, we have two public-houses, both at the village of Crailing. These are certainly not supported by the people in the parish, but by traffic on the high road; yet their existence is productive of decided evil. The circumstance of two being found so near each other in a small village, arises from the trustees of the county (through what may be pronounced a very ill-judged policy) having granted license to the toll-bar.

Fuel.—Dried turf was formerly much used for fuel; but is now almost entirely laid aside.* Coal is the staple article. It is brought from Northumberland, a distance of twenty-five miles. It is not so good, and used to be much dearer, than that found in Mid-Lothian; but, from the great number of persons who occupy themselves in driving, the price has considerably fallen, and has of late been about 13s. per ton: farther up the country it is higher. The peasantry have a sufficient quantity of coals brought to them in their masters' carts,—a circumstance which adds materially to their comfort.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of the parish, as compared with that exhibited in last Statistical Report, indicates advancement. The rental was then L. 2500; it is now nearly tripled, being above L. 7000. The whole grounds are finely enclosed and drained; and husbandry, which, forty years ago, was making rapid improvements, is now practised to a degree of perfection nowhere surpassed.

The only thing wanted is increased facility of communication with the sea and the metropolis, which might easily be afforded by the construction of rail-roads; but there is no great prospect of such an improvement being speedily effected. In a quiet inland country, it is difficult to stimulate to efforts requiring enterprise and involving hazard. Within the parish itself we stand greatly in need of a bridge across the Tiviot; and we are not without the hope of seeing ere long realized, the advantages which such an erection would confer.

* The minister has the right of casting turf,—a privilege which might once have been of some value, but is now scarcely worth the expense attending it.

January 1835.

PARISH OF HOUNAM

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE RUTHERFORD, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish appears to have formerly had the names of Howenham and Hounham. Its more recent orthography is Hounam. The name applies to the village and to the parish; but its precise origin cannot now be ascertained. The syllable *ham* is understood to be from the Anglo-Saxon word, signifying *a mansion or dwelling-place*; and it is believed that Howen,* or Owen, is the name of some distinguished individual, who is reported to have lived in this quarter about the twelfth century.

The parish forms an irregular figure of about 8 miles by 6 in its extreme length and breadth; and, as regards its superficial extent, is computed to contain about $22\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, or 14,458 acres. It might have been nearly of a circular form, had not one point, of considerable extent, projected beyond the rest towards the north-east. It is surrounded by the parishes of Morebattle, Eckford, Jedburgh, and Oxnam in Scotland, and borders on the opposite side with the county of Northumberland, where the top of the Fells, a range of the Cheviot hills, is the march.

Topographical Appearances.—The appearance of this parish exhibits, in general, little else than an assemblage of hills, chiefly appropriated to pasture, and constituting a part of that extensive range generally known by the appellation of Cheviot. The upper portion of the parish, towards the English border, is finely diversified in respect of surface, exhibiting a pleasing variety of waving elevations, and deep narrow dells, with intermediate romantic little valleys, that lie embosomed amid the hills. Numerous rivulets and brooks form a distinguishing feature in the scenery. There

* Howen, the son of Buta, was a witness to the charter of Richard De Morville, Lord High Constable of Scotland, who died in 1189, A. D. *Diplom. Scotiæ*, pl. 75. Howen is merely the Saxon aspirate of the Cambro-British Owen.—*Chalm. Cal.* Vol. ii. p. 165.

are also black barren moors and uncultivated heaths, which afford shelter to a variety of game. The proportion of land fit for cultivation in the parish is exceedingly small. It is in general so hilly, that, out of 14,458 acres, there are not above 583 under tillage. About one-tenth of the whole is either rocky, or consists of heath or of moor land, or peat moss cut for fuel or converted into meadow land. The hills, however, afford valuable and extensive pasturage, and abound with perennial springs of the purest water.

Through the valleys formed by the rising grounds, the waters of Kale and Capehope take a serpentine course of several miles. Most of the low-lands in cultivation are on the banks of the Kale; and though there are some comparatively level tracts along it, well adapted for agricultural purposes, yet they generally rise, with an acclivity by no means gentle, till they terminate in heights. The vales formed along these water-courses are narrow; that of Capehope is not only more confined, but less fertile, and more heathy. The arable lands are, however, sufficiently productive to repay any care or labour that may be bestowed upon them. In some other vales, still more confined and secluded, there is also a proportion of land in cultivation; but these lands are better adapted for pasturage.

The western part of the parish is generally more level, although there are several rising grounds interspersed, which descend by a gradual declivity towards the Kale. At the bottom of several of these rising grounds, there is a portion of arable and meadow land, of a sandy earth, or light sandy loam or gravel.

There are few of the hills of an altitude deserving particular notice, though their general height above the sea is considerable, the loftiest hill, that of Hounam Law, situated at the north-eastern extremity of the parish, and the highest on the border except Cheviot, (which is 2856 feet of elevation,) attaining, according to barometrical measurement, 1464 feet of elevation, the summit whereof is in latitude 55.30°, and longitude 2.24° west from Greenwich. It is of a conical shape, has a declivity north and west, and may be ascended all the way on horseback. At the base, it measures about 9 miles in compass, and its superficial extent is 1730 acres. This eminence, which, from its green flat summit, commands a very rich and extensive prospect over a wide tract of cultivated country, is said to have been in former times a noted sea-mark.

The height of the lower hills has not yet been accurately ascer-

tained ; but they are computed to vary from about 900 to between 1200 and 1300 feet in height. The lowest point in the parish is on the Kale, at the north-eastern extremity, about 460 feet above sea level.

The beds of Kale and Capehope waters are mostly formed of gravel and sand, with stones and fragments of rock similar to that of the adjoining hills, all considerably smoothed and rounded by attrition. The latter stream is a little more rapid in its course than the former, and flows with a velocity of one mile in twenty-six minutes. The beds of both streams afford the finest sharp sand for building. Excellent parish roads have been long open in the direction of these streams ; but the want of wood in this tract, and, indeed, the scantiness of plantation between this and the English border, may have induced hasty travellers to reproach Scotland as a country destitute of trees.

Meteorology.—The temperature of the atmosphere must be considerably influenced by the nakedness of the parish and of the neighbourhood, which is generally destitute of growing wood. The thermometer ranges from about 28° in winter to 76° in summer on Fahrenheit's scale. The medium temperature of the year is 48.7° of Fahrenheit. The rains which prevail most are towards the end of August and the month of September. The heaviest rains are from the westward ; and storms of thunder, accompanied with torrents of rain from the south-west, are of not unfrequent occurrence, especially after a continuance of dry weather. Sometimes, also, in the spring months, there are frequent and heavy rains from the south-east. Our stormiest weather is generally from this quarter. Our steadiest and driest weather is from the north and north-west. The soil being either naturally dry, or drained where it was damp, the frequent recurrence of showers is beneficial, so that we are little afraid of a wet season. The average number of days in which rain falls throughout the year, is about sixty. The climate is somewhat moist ; and this may be in some measure accounted for from the quantity of high grounds contained in and surrounding the parish, which must attract any vapours that may arise and are driven in this direction. But the parish may be regarded on the whole as remarkably healthy. From the sudden changes of temperature, however, to which it is exposed, pulmonary complaints are not uncommon ; and cases of chronic rheumatism, catarrh, quinsy, and others of the inflammatory kind, occasionally occur. Malignant

nant fevers rarely make their appearance. Of simple typhus, a case seldom occurs, and intermittent fevers have almost disappeared. The climate is exceedingly favourable to vegetation, producing a constant verdure, and the most luxuriant herbage on the plains and undulating hills. Both the climate and soil are sufficiently favourable to the production of most descriptions of grain. For barley, especially, it seems to be singularly well adapted. Potatoes and turnips are in general a good crop, and of excellent quality.

Hydrography.—Many excellent perennial springs arise out of the gravelly soil, or from fissured rocks in the hills, and descend in small streams toward the plains, forming numerous rivulets. In the more elevated portions of the parish, there are a few periodical springs, which flow during the winter and spring months, and then cease to flow till the return of winter. Some of these springs are impregnated with a little iron.

There is but one medicinal spring* deserving of notice. Its composition has never been subjected to chemical analysis, but its waters are said to be gently diuretic, and of some virtue in stomach complaints.

The only stream connected with the parish worthy of particular notice is the Kale† water, which takes its rise from the northern declivity of the border hills, a little above the Hindhopes, in Oxnam parish; whence it proceeds in a northerly direction, intersecting the parish in nearly equal halves. After a variety of beautiful windings, and a run of eight miles in a direct line, and of about seventeen counting its windings, this water unites at the village with that of Capehope.‡ In its course through the parish it receives other tributary streams; but its breadth is small in comparison to its length,—varying from 27 to 45 feet. Its bed being of a gravelly nature, this stream frequently undermines its banks, changes its channel, and not unfrequently overflows its banks. Possessing a clean gravelly bottom, its waters are remarkably transparent. It

* Situated at the base of the west declivity of the hill called Cranshaw-law, a little to the westward from Hounam village.

† The Kale derived its ancient name (Caile) from the woody coverts which embellished its banks; *Cell* and *Celli* in the British signifying a grove, and *Coilli*, in the Gaelic, a wood.—Chalmers's Caledonia.

‡ The Capehope derives its name from one of those small vales from whence it takes its rise, and to which the term Hope is generally applied where the bases of rising grounds meet each other without leaving any level. The names of the different Hopes in this parish are as follows: Cape-hope, Crib-hope, Callaw-hope, Dornmont-hope, Bear-hope, Kirk-hope, and Heather-hope.

flows with a velocity of one mile in twenty-seven minutes. After a course of seventeen miles in a direct line, and about thirty-three counting the windings, this stream discharges its waters into the Tiviot, about a quarter of a mile below Eckford church.

Falling over a rocky precipice of several feet in height a little to the westward from the village, the Kale forms a cascade, called "the Salmon Leap," and which, when the stream is flooded, becomes an object of interest. An excellent road pursues nearly the whole line of this stream. Besides the Kale and Capehope waters, we have a variety of streamlets, romantic in their scenery, and abounding in trout.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The parish appears to be composed principally of rocks of the porphyry formation. In these rocks, there occur cavities and veins more or less filled up with grey amethyst, rock-crystal, common quartz, calc-spar, heavy spar, agates of various kinds, and also jaspers. The jaspers and the agates are frequently very beautiful. Hitherto no ores or native metals of any kind have been met with among the prevailing rocks, although rich mines of metals have been worked to a very considerable extent in other countries where porphyry rocks resembling those of this parish prevail.

The soil is various, but when cultivated generally productive. The low-lying land of the vales, and the holms on the banks of the different streams, consist of a light kindly soil, either of a sandy earth or light sandy loam, upon a gravelly bottom. In the haughs adjoining the Kale, the soil is alluvial, containing many rounded stones, with sand and gravel, intermixed with vegetable mould, and appears to have been formed by deposits washed down, in the course of ages, from the higher grounds. It is well adapted to potatoes, turnips, barley, and almost every variety of crop,—though apt to suffer much in a severe drought.

The soil on the higher grounds, though fertile, is of a less kindly quality, from its exposed situation. In general, it is sharp and dry upon the hills, inclining much to a sandy gravel, on a gravelly or rocky bottom; or it has a subsoil either of a clayey retaining nature, or of indurated clay, or clay mixed with boulders of porphyry and gravel, or ferruginous clay or till. A blackish moory earth, with a wet and tilly substratum immediately under it, is here and there to be met with. On the high grounds, also, there are sometimes found mossy strata upon earthy gravel, having a substratum of a very retentive clay or till.

The subsoil in the low ground is generally gravel or sand, apparently resting on water.

Peat abounds in the upper districts of the parish, where there are a number of *peataria* extending to some hundred acres.

Zoology.—The parish has long been remarkable for its improved breed of sheep,* which are all or nearly all Cheviots; and only a few crosses of Cheviots and Leicester, on some of the farms in the lower districts. They are much esteemed for the delicacy of their mutton; and the fleece is remarkably soft, and sometimes very fine.

The only animals certainly existing in the parish in former times, and which have now disappeared are, *Lutra vulgaris*, *Sciurus vulgaris*, and a species of deer which frequented the upper districts. *Ursus meles*, and *Mustela putorius*, have only disappeared from the parish at a comparatively recent period. *M. vulgaris* and *Vipera communis* are still to be met with. *Vulpes vulgaris* is no stranger here, and is destructive to lambs and poultry.

The parish is not distinguished by many of the rarer species of birds. We may enumerate the following: *Gallinula chloropus*, *Tetrao tetrix*, *T. Scoticus*, *Nansenius arguata*, *Buteo nisus*, *Fringilla carduelis*, *F. linaria*, *Turdus merula*, *T. musicus*, *T. torquatus*, *T. viscivorus*, *Sturnus vulgaris*. *Ardea cinerea*, *Anas boschas*, and *Larus canus*, are occasional visitants to the waters. *Charadrius pluvialis* and *Vanellus cristatus* breed in the upper districts, but draw towards the coast, and spend the winter on the low lands that border the sea. *Scolopax rusticola* and *S. gallinago* make their appearance in flocks about the month of November, and remain with us for a few days on their way south. The latter breeds here, but not numerously. *Motacilla Regulus*, (one of the *Sylviadæ*) sometimes visit us in flocks. *Alcedo ispida* is also an occasional visitant to the waters. Black and red game, with partridges, are all abundant.

Trouts of various sizes and of peculiar excellence are produced in the Kale, which has been long the resort of the fisher. Its tributary streams abound in trout of rather an inferior flavour. *Leuciscus phoxinus*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Cobitis barbatula*, *Anguilla vulgaris*, are all abundant. *Petromyzon marinus* is to be found on the sides of sandy banks. The only fish which now seems extinct, and which used to be very plentiful, till of late years, is the parr. In the floods of October and November, great quantities of

* The parish is chiefly indebted for its improved breed of sheep to the late Messrs Charles and John Robson, while they were in possession of Chatto and Philogar farms.
ROXBURGH. N

salmon and sea-trout ascend the Kale for the purpose of spawning. Only a very few of the lesser migratory sort find their way up the stream at the season when they are at all valuable.

Botany.—Besides the more common species of plants, there are to be found in this parish the following:—*Euonymus Europæus*, a rare plant in Scotland, grows among the rocks in Shoreden-cleugh; *Asperula odorata*, *Hedera Helix*, *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*, are to be met with in Chatto-cleugh; *Dianthus deltoides*, *Saxifraga granulata*, *Sedum acre*, in great abundance on the porphyry rocks; *S. villosum*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, on the heaths and mossy grounds; *V. myrtillus*, *V. Vitis-idaea*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *L. alpinum*, on the north and north-west declivity of Hounam-law, and elsewhere; *Digitalis purpurea*, *Solidago virgaurea*, on the sandy grounds by the side of the waters; *Rubus fruticosus*, on the glebe lands; *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, abundant in our meadows. In other parts of the parish, we meet with *Papaver Argemone*, *Centaurea scabiosa*, *Iris pseud-acorus*, *Trichonema Bulbocastanum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Cistus Helianthemum*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Trifolium striatum*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Thlaspi arvense*, *Tormentilla reptans*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Leontodon palustre*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Valeriana dioica*, *V. officinalis*, *Gnaphalium dioicum*, *Drosera vulgaris*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Comarum palustre*, and various species of *Orchis*.

The broom, the whin, fern or braken, rushes, and corn chamomile are all abundant. The cultivated crops of corn are barley, and the best varieties of common and early oats. The corn-cockle and wild mustard prevail to a considerable extent in some of the cultivated lands, and are pernicious to the growing crops.

A considerable portion of the parish was at one period richly wooded; and the remains of a very extensive forest of hazels, (*Corylus avellana*,) having the appearance of great antiquity, are to be met with on Chatto-crags. On the low-lying lands of Kirkrow, are still a number of trees of great beauty, and of extreme luxuriance both in foliage and ramification. Philogar used to be much admired for its woody banks; but the greater part of the wood is now cutting down by the proprietor. Boughtrig and the two Granges also present a few clumps of trees. A number of full-grown elms and plane trees, of considerable age and size, surround the church and burying-ground, which are reported to have been planted by a former minister of the parish.

The trees planted by the Messrs Douglas on their property of Chester House have succeeded well, and are now arrived at considerable maturity. More recent plantations of various sorts of forest trees and shrubbery have been executed on a considerable scale in the neighbourhood of, and around the Duke of Roxburghe's villa of Greenhill, which are in a thriving state ; and new and ornamental plantations are rising on part of Mr Dickson's property, which will tend much to beautify the scenery around the village. The hedge-rows are usually interspersed with oak, ash, and elm. The soil seems congenial to ash, elm, beech, Scotch and larch fir, plane-trees, and various species of ornamental trees. Those that grow spontaneously are the hazel, the birch, the alder, the oak, and the mountain-ash.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—Of the early history of this parish little or nothing is known. Situated on the frontier of Scotland, and bordering for a number of miles on England, the parish and neighbourhood, in former times, was undoubtedly a perpetual scene of border warfare. The sites of several ancient forts are still discernible.

Before the Reformation, the church was in the diocese of the Bishop of Glasgow, and was conferred on the Abbey of Jedburgh at the end of the twelfth century. (MS. Adv. Lib. Hounam, sh. Roxburgh, alias Teviotdale Di. Glasgow, Pr. Jedburgh, &c.) When the Bishop of Glasgow and the Abbot settled their disputes in 1220, (as noted by Chalmers, Cal. Vol. ii. p. 166,) it was agreed that the whole tithes of corn within the parish of Hounam should be appropriated to the use of the canons ; the vicar receiving L. 10, or the altarages, in his option.* The lands of Kirkrow, Kirkhope, and Steeple-side, are reported to have formed part of the patrimony and spirituality of this church, during the reign of the Roman Catholic religion. The Reformation restored the independence of the parish. The patronage of the church belonged for a considerable period to the lands of Kirkrow, but was lately sold separate from these lands, and is now held by Sir George Warrender.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owner is the Duke of Roxburghe, a minor. His property, including the farms of Hounam-mains, Main-side, Greenhill, Bearhope, West Grange, Weary Streams,

* " Chart. Glasgow : In this particular settlement there was a reservation to the canons, (which shews the practice of the age,) that they should have in this parish an acre of land, " *ad reponendum bladum suum in loco competenti.*"

and South Cote, embraces nearly a third of the whole parish, and rather more than a third of the whole valued rent of the parish. The property of Walter Dickson, Esq. including the farms of Nether Chatto, Sharplaw, and Kirkrow, stands next in extent and value, and comprises nearly a fourth of the valued rent. Thomas Turnbull, Esq. is the only resident heritor, and his property of Howgate, which he holds in his own possession, amounts to about a sixtieth part of the whole valued rental of the parish.

The remaining landed property in the parish is very much divided. The names of the other land-owners, taken in the order of their rentals, are as under, viz. William Oliver Rutherford, Esq. Boughtrig; William Scott Ker, Over Chatto; Sir George Warrender, West Side Over Whitton, and Heatherlands; Thomas Stavert, Philogar; James Ainslie, East Side Over Whitton, and East Grange; Robert Boyd, a minor, Capehope; James, Alexander, and Pringle Home Douglas, Chester House.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of our parish or sessional records, comprising entries of the proclamations of the banns of marriage, baptisms, discipline, division of poors' money, and the proceedings of the kirk-session, is 1690. The records from this date to the year 1728 are very imperfect. Since the latter period, they have been better attended to, and are in general pretty accurately kept. From 1772 to November 1775, there is an entire blank in the minutes of session. Since 1775, they have been kept with considerable care, and the entries are regular as far as relates to the minutes. No accurate account can be given of deaths and burials, from the imperfection of the registers; and even the births and baptisms are not regularly recorded.*

Antiquities.—The traces of ancient camps and other remains of antiquity are discovered here in a variety of situations. The ancient Roman Iter, commonly called the "Street," and which can be traced to the south as far as Borough Bridge in Yorkshire, traverses this parish. After passing a hamlet, which is named from it Street-house, it crosses the Kale water near to Pennymuir. It afterwards proceeds to the Tweed by St Boswell's Green, whence

* It may be worth mentioning, that there are belonging to the kirk-session three folio volumes, in a state of excellent preservation, of the Acts of Assembly, commencing 16th day of October 1690, with the following inscription in front of the title-page of volume first: "This and other two volumes of Acts of Assembly, comprehending all their acts to the year 1753, inclusive, are to belong to the session of Hounam. ... Delivered by James Carmichael to the session, at the death of Mr John Rogers, minister of Hounam, the Donor, this 15th August 1774."

it bends its course towards the Lothians. Vestiges of encampments and semicircular entrenchments may still be traced on some of the rising grounds in the line of this old Roman way. The most conspicuous of these encampments is discovered on the summit of Wooden-law. The largest and most complete camp is upon Hounam-law.* There are also visible remains of some other smaller encampments on several of the lesser hills.

There is nothing in the shape of a ruin worthy of notice in this parish, with the exception of a vaulted building, the only existing remains of the original structure, which, in all probability, was one of those fortresses or border keeps, erected by the border chieftains for the defence of the country from the incursions of the English borderers; or it may indicate the site of one of the strong chain of fortifications erected by the Romans. It occupies a situation on a rising ground, which overlooks a beautiful bend of the water, at a short distance north from the village, and gives the name of Chester House to the property on which it stands. It is bounded on the north by a deep narrow ravine. Tradition gives no account of it, but it was certainly built as a place of security in the days of violence.—Another ruin, in some respects similar to the one above-mentioned, is to be seen at Heatherlands, towards the north-west extremity of the parish.

On the farm of Hounam-mains, south-eastward from Hounam, are distinct traces of a very extensive fortification called, probably from its figure, the Rings. In this parish and neighbourhood, there are the remains of several cairns or barrows, the tombs of ancient warriors. Two eminences, called moats, exist in this parish. Situated on elevated ground to the eastward of, and at no great distance from, the village, is a semicircle composed of a number of upright stones. There is a tradition which bears that these stones were, at a remote period, human beings, who, for reaping on the Sabbath, were metamorphosed into so many stones. They are to this day called the eleven shearers. There is every probability that they indicate the site of a Druidical circle or oratory. There are many single stones of large dimensions scattered over the parish, said to be of Druidical origin.†

* Within these few years a large iron gate, taken down from the top of Hounam-law, was to be seen at Cessford Castle, belonging to the Duke of Roxburghe.—Vide former Stat. Report.

† In the MS. are noticed some other of the minor antiquities of the parish, coins, querns, tombstones, &c.

Modern Buildings.—These are constructed of stone and lime, and covered with roof slate. The hewn work is of red freestone, from a quarry belonging to the Duke of Roxburghe, in the parish of Eckford. Hounam, the only village in the parish, occupies a pleasant situation on the eastern bank of the Kale, in the neighbourhood of the parish church, and at the base of a gently rising ground, which, gradually retiring, terminates in hills of considerable height. It is a place of considerable antiquity, and is in the course of being considerably improved and enlarged. A very substantial house for an inn, with stabling, and two other dwelling houses of two stories each, have been lately erected; and some others have been projected. A range of houses, called, from the circumstance of their having originally belonged to a tailor, Thimble-row, is so nearly adjoining to Hounam on the north, that a stranger would think it a continuance of the same village. This range of houses, together with all the other buildings in the village, excepting the school and school-house, are feus upon the lands of Kirkrow, the property of Walter Dickson, Esq. Very commodious and substantial farm-buildings have lately been erected at a considerable expense, and on a liberal and well arranged plan, by this gentleman, and by the Duke of Roxburghe. Several new and substantial bridges have been erected within these few years. There is no other mansion-house in the parish, except that of Greenhill, a seat of the family of Roxburghe. It is deservedly admired for the amenity of its situation. It is a favourite resort of the Duke, and much attention and expense have been bestowed upon it. The buildings are remarkably neat, and the surrounding grounds tastefully laid out. Its elevation is about 610 feet above the sea.

III.—POPULATION.

The population appears to have been anciently much greater than it is at present. Whole families, besides single individuals, have, within these few years, emigrated to America. The farmers, paying more attention to their sheep walks than formerly, hardly allow a single house to stand on any part of their farm, excepting such as are necessary for their shepherd's accommodation; and landlords themselves do not encourage the erection of more cottages than are absolutely necessary. The decrease of population previous to the year 1791 is attributed in the former Statistical Report to "the mode of agriculture almost universally adopted in the parish about that period, of converting the arable into

pasture land." The decrease since that period, may be chiefly ascribed to non-residence, emigration, razing of cottar houses, the resorting of the poor and of operatives to towns, where they meet with more employment, and to the too general system adopted by landlords, of uniting a number of small farms into one, * and allowing a single individual tenant, not only to rent several of these farms in one parish, but to have a number of farms united in this manner in different parishes. Such a system is, indeed, as has been elsewhere expressed, "the bane of the comfort, happiness, and independence of the lower classes."

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Population in 1755, | - | 692 |
| 1791, | - | 365 |
| 1801, | - | 372 |
| 1811, | - | 373 |
| 1821, | - | 327 |
| 1831, | - | 260 |
| The population residing in Hounam | - | 41 |
| the country part of the parish, | - | 219 |
| Number of persons under 15 years of age, | - | 91 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | - | 83 |
| 30 and 50, | - | 43 |
| 50 and 70, | - | 32 |
| upwards of 70, | - | 11 |
| The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | - | 7 |
| unmarried women upwards of 45, | - | 6 |
| families in the parish is, | - | 49 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, as occupiers, labourers, | - | |
| or shepherds, | - | 38 |
| in retail trade, manufacture, or handicraft, | - | 9 |
| other families, | - | 2 |
| The average number of children in each family, | - | 9 |
| Number of inhabited houses, | - | 41 |
| of unfinished houses, | - | 1 |

There is but one proprietor of land resident in the parish: the rental of his estate, which he holds in his own possession, exceeds L. 50.

Character and Habits of the People.—If any of our people do fall into bad habits it is chiefly from the cheapness of whisky. The style of living and of dress has been much improved during the last thirty years; and in no class more than among servants. Oatmeal porridge, used with milk, or with beer made from treacle, is the ordinary breakfast of the working classes, and of the younger branches of every family. Barley and pease-meal bannocks and potatoes are principal articles of food, which, with the produce of a small garden, and occasionally a little bacon or salted mutton, occupy a chief

* One tenant at present rents no fewer than five different farms in the parish, all belonging to different landlords, and is non-resident. Another tenant rents a single farm, which used to give employment to seven tenants and their families.

place both at dinner and supper. Coffee and tea are daily becoming more general among all classes; and few of our tenantry now breakfast without one or other of them, or dine without animal food. The people are generally intelligent, moral, and exemplary in their attendance on religious ordinances. The writer is sorry, however, to say, that poaching in game prevails to a considerable extent; but chiefly by persons not resident in the parish. Daring bands of these modern freebooters from the English borders have lately traversed the hills, making great havoc among the game. The waters have recently been fished to great excess, and not by the most legitimate means of capture. The Kale and all its tributary streams are poached without interruption during the season of spawning. Smuggling in whisky holds out strong temptations to illicit traffic, and lawless gangs of smugglers from the English borders have long infested this neighbourhood.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish is 14,458, roads, fences, &c. included. The real rent of land is about L. 5000; of which are paid from sheep, L. 3973, and from corn and cattle, L. 1027.

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| The sheep walks comprehend about | - | 13,590 acres. |
| Of these there are about of heath and of mossy pasture, from which the inhabitants are supplied with peat, | - | 1500 |
| The land in cultivation or occasionally in tillage, or in meadow, about | - | 766 |
| Under wood, natural or planted, | - | 102 |

In all, 14458

There are no lands in a state of undivided common.

Rent of Land, &c.—The average rent of land per acre* may be about 7s. The average yearly rent of grazing may be at the rate of about L. 5, 10s. for an ox or cow, if fed in winter with fodder. The year's grazing for full-grown hill-fed sheep may be from 6s. 6d. to 7s.

Rate of Wages, &c.—Full-grown farm-servants maintained in the family are commonly hired by the half year. Men-servants, besides board, are paid from L. 5, 5s. to L. 6, 6s. for the summer, and from L. 4, 4s. to L. 5, 5s. for the winter half year. Female servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 5, 5s. for the summer, and from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 2s. for the winter half year, with board. Married men-servants, or hinds, besides being paid L. 3 of money,

* The lands are seldom let at any certain amount per acre. The farmers calculate the value by the number of sheep the lands are known or supposed to keep.

receive 5 loads of oatmeal, 3 bolls of barley, 6 bushels of pease, from 1000 to 1200 yards of drill, lineal measure, for potatoes; 4 caps of lint-seed sown; 3 or 4 double cart-load of coals, by paying the coal-hill price; a cow kept; a free house and garden, for which they furnish a female bondager for shearing in harvest, and other out-door work, who is paid by the tenant at the rate of 10d. per day in summer, and in winter somewhat less. A shepherd's wage consists of 2 cows, and from 40 to 45 sheep, to graze on the farm to which he belongs;—coals and potatoes as above described, and a free house and garden. The general rate of a day-labourer's wage, without victuals, is, for men during summer, 1s. 8d. per day, and for women 1s.; and during winter for men from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., and for women 10d., sometimes less. In harvest, the wages rise to from 13s. to 14s. for men, and for women from 12s. to 13s. per week, with victuals. Doing work by the piece is very general; such as mowing and ditching. Mowing costs from 2s. 6d. to 3s. the acre; and the general rate of a mower's wage is about 2s. 6d. per day without victuals. Masons and carpenters have each from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. in summer, and about 2s. in winter, without victuals. A tailor has 1s. 6d. a-day and his victuals. Blacksmiths, furnishing the necessary iron, are paid at the rate of L. 3 per annum for each pair of horses kept upon the farm. This includes shoeing, and repairing plough irons and harrows; and for every riding horse shoeing L. 1.

Prices.—Coal carried and delivered here costs, per cwt., about 8½d.; peats, per cart load, 3s.; average price of wool per stone of 24 lbs. for the last three years, L. 1, 12s.; artificial hay, from 7d. to 9d. Potatoes sell at the average rate of 5s. 6d. per boll of six imperial bushels. A pound weight of the best butter costs from 7d. to 8d.; cheese from 12s. to 14s. per stone of 24 lbs.; average price of eggs about 4s. 2d. per hundred; chickens from 7d. to 9d. each.

Stock.—The common breed of cattle are the short-horned, to the improvement of which great attention has been paid. The number of cows kept in the parish is 65; young cattle, 110. The best sorts of the Cheviot breed of sheep, which are found to thrive remarkably in every part of the parish, constitute the stock on the hill pasture; while, on the lower and arable lands, it has been found of late to answer a good purpose to cross a part of the ewes with Leicester rams. The wool is thereby much improved both in weight and quality. The number of sheep kept through

the year is 13000, which produce about 1600 stones of wool, 24 lb. to the stone. The horses employed and bred here are almost all farm work-horses of a middle size, either of the English or of the Lanarkshire breed. The number of horses kept is 38; young horses bred yearly by the farmers, 13. Swine are reared by almost every cottager and farm-servant who is married, but do not constitute a part of the farmer's stock, as an article for the market. The small breed is chiefly preferred, and the number bred and fattened yearly is 25. Poultry and bees yield a small profit.

Husbandry.—At an early period, the farms in this parish were much more subdivided, and occupied by a number of small tenants, who extended the cultivation on the hill grounds to some hundreds of acres more than is now even occasionally in tillage. The appearances of cultivation can still be traced on many of the hills, where no grain can now be produced; and regular ridges and furrows are in many places very distinct. Since the middle of the last century, these farms have been converted into extensive sheep walks, occupied each by one tenant. The approved course of husbandry now pursued in the parish has nothing in it of a peculiar nature. The crops to which most attention is paid are barley, oats, and turnips. A crop of turnips is the most valuable that is raised. Barley alone can be considered as an article for the market.

Some of the best grazing farms in the district are to be found in this parish. They vary in extent from 180 to 2900 acres. Leases are in some cases of seven, in others nineteen and twenty-one years' endurance. Generally, the new tenant enters at Whitsunday to the grass and green crop lands, while the old tenant has the white crop then upon the ground. By means of draining, burning of moors, liming, &c. which are carried on to a considerable extent, the land has of late years been rendered doubly valuable. The Duke of Roxburghe and Walter Dickson, Esq. have judiciously spared no expense in erecting neat, commodious, and substantial farm steadings of stone and lime, with slate roofs, in place of the former old clay cottages; and in other respects have given great encouragement to their tenants to carry on their operations with energy and spirit. Great improvements are observable in making and keeping in repair the parish roads.

Produce.—The average amount and value of raw produce raised yearly in the parish may be as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, &c. | - | - | L. 1124 |
| potatoes, turnips, and other plants, cultivated in the fields for food, | - | - | 633 |
| land in pasture, | - | - | 5887 |
| hay, meadow, and cultivated, | - | - | 980 |
| Dairy produce, poultry, &c. | - | - | 621 |
| Miscellaneous produce, | - | - | 90 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce, | | | L. 9335 |

Large quantities of butter and ewe milk cheese, of the very best qualities, have long been produced in this parish.* Poultry and eggs are weekly collected by persons who make a trade of transporting such articles to the different market-towns.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets and Means of Communication.—The village of Hounam has no post-office; but letters, newspapers, and parcels are regularly brought to it. The nearest market-town is Jedburgh, which lies upon the west of, and is distant about nine miles from, the centre of the parish. A carrier goes and returns from Jedburgh weekly. Kelso, our post and principal market-town, lies upon the north of, and is distant about twelve miles from, the centre of the parish. With Kelso, we have regular communication by carriers. The rate of carriage is 1s. 4d. per cwt.—The parish is intersected by upwards of thirteen miles of good parish roads, which are kept up from the statute-labour funds. These and the district roads are well supplied with substantial bridges, and are mostly in a tolerable state of repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church occupies a situation within the precincts of the glebe, and, like many other of our parish churches, might be more central to the population, though it is not more than about four and a-half miles distant from the remotest of the inhabitants, being about two and a-half miles from the north-east extremity of the parish, and between five and six miles from its south-west extremity. It is a very ancient building, and was originally in the form of a passion-cross, of great extent, and from end to end a burying-place; but is now a plain rectangular house of 50 feet in length by 19 feet in breadth within the walls, 10 feet having been taken off its length in 1752. This edifice is but indifferently seated, and in a state of bad repair, and so exceedingly cold in winter as to prevent many a well-disposed person

* Hence the old proverbial distich,

“ There’s as gude cheese at Chatto as e’er was chew’d wi’ chafts,
There’s as gude butter at Philogar as e’er was weigh’d wi’ weights.”

from giving a regular attendance on the public duties of the Sabbath. The want of a legal division of the church seats is also felt to be an evil, and the apportioning anew the seats would tend much to promote the comfort and convenience of the congregation. It affords accommodation for 225 persons, allowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet to each; and the sittings are all free.

The manse was built in 1776, but is placed too near the river, and consequently in a damp situation. It was never very sufficiently built. It underwent a repair in the year 1832, when an addition of two rooms was made to it, which have rendered it a tolerably convenient house. The extent of the glebe, exclusive of garden ground, with policy attached to the manse, is about six and a-quarter acres arable, and two and a-half acres pasture, fences, &c. which are in very bad repair, included. Its yearly value in rent may be about L. 11 Sterling, which is considerably below the average value of the other glebes in the presbytery.

The stipend, from the Revolution to 1791, amounted to L. 75, 5s. 10d. in money, including L. 3, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and 21 bolls of victual. In 1791 the victual stipend was augmented to 63 bolls, Tiviotdale measure. In 1805, the victual stipend was fixed at 3 chalders meal, and 3 chalders, bear, Linlithgow measure, together with the above L. 75, 5s. 10d. money stipend. By the last augmentation, commencing with crop and year 1820, the stipend, as then modified, amounts to 14 chalders, half barley, half oatmeal, Linlithgow measure, payable at the rate of the county fiars, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. is given for communion elements. On an average of the last seven years the stipend amounts to L. 204, 1s. 2½d. Sterling. It may also be stated, that there belongs to the minister a servitude for turf and peats from Mainside-fell.

There are no chapels or dissenting meeting-houses of any kind here, though there are eleven families of dissenters connected with the United Secession, who attend public worship in the seceding meeting-house chapel at Morebattle. The parish church is, upon the whole, pretty well frequented and attended by the greater part of the inhabitants. A few families are divided among themselves,—part going to the church and part to the meeting-house. The sacrament is dispensed once in the year, and usually to about 47 communicants, not including strangers from other congregations who join in that ordinance.

No societies for religious purposes exist in the parish. The average yearly amount of ordinary church collections for the last

seven years is L. 1, 16s. 7d. Sterling. This includes the extra collections made at the celebration of the holy sacrament.

Education.—There is in the parish only one established school,—the parochial. The yearly salary of the schoolmaster is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4½d. with legal accommodations. The emoluments of the schoolmaster as session-clerk are 15s.,—as clerk to the heritors, L. 6 per annum. The children of paupers are taught gratis; and the number of scholars attending the school is in winter about 27, and in summer about 17. The yearly amount of school fees received by the teacher does not much exceed L. 9. Children are commonly sent to school about six years of age, and there are none upwards of seven years who cannot read, and few above the age of ten or twelve that cannot write.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There is no other provision for the poor in the parish but what arises from the weekly collections at the church, fees for proclamations, the use of the mortcloth, and the legal quarterly assessments laid on the landholders and their tenants,—the landholders paying one-half, and the tenant the other half,—which yield at an average about L. 38, 5s. per annum. In former times, the heritors used voluntarily to assess themselves to a certain amount over and above the legal assessment. The sum thus assessed for was called the surplus fund, and was appropriated by the kirk-session to the relief of incidental distress. This wholesome practice, which operated powerfully in keeping paupers from the poors' roll, has of late years been discontinued. The average number of poor on the roll is 8; and the yearly sum allotted to each varies from L. 3 to L. 5. Some individuals who are incapable of doing anything for themselves receive as high as L. 6. Several persons not on the poors' roll get an occasional supply. A practice prevails in the parish of raising a small sum for the relief of a poor family by means of a charity ball, or some other amusement. Such is the feeling of independence on the part of the people generally that it is with considerable reluctance they are induced to apply for relief.

Fairs.—Pennymuir Border Tryst is held twice every year on the Oxnam side of the south-west boundary of the parish, and close upon the old Roman road which divides the two parishes of Hounam and Oxnam. It takes place on the 31st day of July and 15th day of October, and is one of the principal marts for the sale of lambs and draft ewes in the south of Scotland. The customs of

this fair belong to the Duke of Roxburghe. Capehope fair, which in former times was a market of considerable resort, has for a number of years ceased to be held.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There are two inns or public-houses in Hounam village, besides one on the Oxnam side of Pennymuir, on the very boundaries of this parish. One-half of the number in Hounam would be quite sufficient for the parish.

Fuel.—The nearest coal field to which there is access by a road is that of Etal, in the county of Northumberland, a distance of twenty miles from the centre of the parish. The fuel generally used by the poorer classes in the upper districts of the parish is peat, of which the high grounds afford an almost interminable supply. It is of tolerable quality, and the expense consists solely in cutting, winning, and leading home. The average labour and carriage may probably cost about 1s. 6d. per cart load, when stacked up for use; or about L. 2 per annum for each householder. The price of a cart load of coals is from 13s. to 14s. per ton of 20 cwt. including carriage.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It is stated in the former Statistical Report, that no fewer than nine houses, with cottagers in them, at Mainside, all of whom the writer visited on his admission in the year 1775, were thrown down to make way for a single farm-house and its appendages; and that “the lands were formerly parcelled out into four times at least the present number of farms, and there was also much of these farms in tillage. So late as the year 1756, there were no fewer than seven tenants, with large families, on the farm of Hounam-Mains, now all rented by one tenant, who employs one shepherd. There were also several small, but proud lairds in the parish, whose lands are now lost in the large farms, and of whose mansions there are now no remains.” That report states the number of inhabited houses to have been 66, and the number of corn-mills and kilns to have been 3; the number of houses at present is 49, and there is no corn-mill or kiln now in existence. A great part of the lands have changed owners; and the number of landholders has increased since the publication of the last Statistical Account, from 8 to 10. The land rents have risen from L. 2720, to nearly L. 5000, and were a few years ago between L. 6000 and L. 7000 per annum. A large extent of stone fences has been erected, and many of the farms have been better enclosed and subdivided with hedges and other fences. The management of the land is more judicious, and the mode of cultivation greatly improved, as evinced

by the superior cleanness and condition of the land on most of the farms. Much of the surface water has been removed by draining, and the soil is in consequence improved. In the cultivation of the arable soils, the greatest improvement which has taken place is the introduction of the culture of turnips, a crop to which the soil is eminently adapted. The mode of husbandry having been altered and improved, prices of labour and raw produce of every description have undergone a proportional alteration. The breed of cows and cattle and other stock has been very much improved, and the sheep stock even more so. The writer is doubtful whether much improvement can now be made on the general system of our husbandry,—except only in subjecting the land to a less severe cropping, and in creating additional shelter by more extended plantation. Were the same taste and spirit displayed in this respect by the other land-holders as by the Duke of Roxburghe and Mr Dickson of Chatto, Hounam, from the nature of its surface and localities, the salubrity of the atmosphere, and beauty and variety of the scenery, might be one of the most attractive of our border parishes. A very superior coal, and not inferior in quality to any in Scotland, might be had at a very moderate price from Reed water in the neighbourhood of Birdhopecrag ; but it is much to be regretted that the road leading from Pennymuir to the lime and coal-works there, so far as it extends through Oxnam parish, is but partially made. If this line of road were to be completed, and supported out of the general funds of the district to which it belongs, which, in all probability it will be the case ere long, it would be of incalculable benefit not only to this parish, but to the district generally, as it would open an easy intercourse to the westward in Scotland, as well as into England.

March 1836.

PARISH OF HOBKIRK OR HOPEKIRK.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. JOHN EWEN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN the more ancient records, the name of this parish is written Hopkirk, undoubtedly an abbreviation of Hope-kirk or kirk of the Hope.*

Extent, Figure, Boundaries, &c.—The parish extends in length from north to south, about 11 miles, and in breadth from east to west, about 3 miles, widening to something more at the top or south end, and contracting to little more than one mile at the northern extremity. Its figure is not unlike the naked impression of the left foot, the heel being turned to the north. The whole superficies may be estimated at 30 square miles.† On the south, it is bounded by Castleton parish; on the west by Cavers and Kirkton; on the north by Cavers and Bedrule; on the east by Southdean, and a small part of Castleton. By the one or other of these two last-mentioned, it is separated about six miles from the English border.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The hills in the southern extremity appear to be a continuation of the Carter or Cheviot range. The principal summits are Fanna and Windbrugh, which attain an elevation of about 1600 feet. At the opposite or northern extremity, Rubberslaw rears, to a height of 1420 feet, its dark rugged and heath-covered form, part of which only is in this parish, the remainder in Cavers and Kirkton. On the other side the Rule, and somewhat south, is the beautiful round-shouldered and grassy hill of Bonchester, rising to a height of about 1260 feet. The flat lands or haughs lie all within the valley through which the Rule flows from south to north, and are scarcely a quarter of a

* A *hope* means a small valley or glen opening into a larger valley, generally at the confluence of a mountain rill with a larger stream.

† Stobie's map errs in assigning the whole of the suppressed parish of Abbotrule to Hopekirk, whereas it was divided equally between Hopekirk and Southdean.

mile in breadth. On each side, the ground rises with a considerable acclivity, to the eastern and western borders of the parish.

On approaching Hobkirk either from the east, west, or south, the temperature feels obviously augmented as we descend into the valley of the Rule; but it must be confessed, that the borders of the parish in these directions are particularly exposed; and this circumstance, doubtless, renders the change more perceptible, and more grateful to the traveller. Upon the mountain range to the south, clouds condense and precipitate themselves in copious rains. These sometimes fall so heavy as to resemble water-spouts. The inhabitants of this parish, as well as of the neighbouring town of Hawick, preserve the remembrance of a water-spout which broke upon Windbrugh, some seventy years ago, and unexpectedly swelled the streams of Rule and Slitterick to a tremendous height. In the traditions of the good town, this event is still celebrated under the appellation of Hawick flood, and several anecdotes connected with it may be found in Wilson's History of Hawick. An allusion to the same event occurs in Leyden's Scenes of Infancy, where, with poetic license, the poet ascribes the sudden inundation to the vengeance of the affronted nymph of Windbrugh Lake.

The climate is upon the whole damp, the heights swampy, and often overhung with moist fogs, vernacularly termed *drows*, or *Liddesdale drows*.

Hydrography.—In the upper part of the parish, there are numerous salubrious springs flowing from the greywacke formation; in the lower parts, where the sandstone prevails, there are comparatively fewer. Several marshes or bogs occur, but nothing which can properly be called a lake; that which is so termed and is celebrated by Leyden, on the top of Windbrugh, is in reality a peat moss. There is but one stream of any consequence in the parish, viz. the Rule,—which, rising from the range of hills on the south, flows nearly due north throughout the whole length of the parish, and, about two miles beyond its northern extremity, falls into the river Teviot. Its whole course, therefore, must be about thirteen miles. Like all mountain torrents, its declivity is considerable, and its velocity proportionally great. From this circumstance, combined with the extensive drainage of the hills, its swellings and subsidings are extremely sudden. About a mile south from the church, the name is first applied to the union of three branches, which gather their waters from the alpine range above-mentioned. Two or three small burns join it farther down,

all originating within the parish. The south-western corner, however, includes a small portion of Langburn, the principal feeder of the Slitterick, which flows northward, and joins the Teviot at Hawick, seven miles above the confluence of the Rule.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The parish may geologically be divided into two districts. The rocks, from the northern extremity to a mile and a half above the church, are mostly sandstone; thence, southward and westward, the greywacke predominates. On the south, occur likewise extensive masses of limestone, and red sandstone of a different species from that above noticed. The limestone is found at Limekilnedge, south of Windbrugh, where it has long been burnt for use. Here also are symptoms of a coal formation, which is not likely to prove beneficial. Windbrugh itself shows a gritty sandstone, more akin to the Northumberland formation. That in the north end of the parish has sometimes a red, and sometimes a white colour; and both kinds are employed for building. In fact, the upper strata generally consist of the white, which, accordingly, crops out three miles before the red. Both kinds are extensively wrought for public use in the adjoining parish of Cavers, at Denholm-hill quarry. The dip of the sandstone is to the north or north-east. The greywacke has generally a westerly course, varying somewhat to the south, and stands nearly vertical, with a slight overhanging to the north. The limestone, (supposed to be mountain limestone,) dips to the east like the Northumberland rocks, and probably the sandstone found in this upper district maintains the same position.

Besides the rocks above-mentioned, there appear on the top of Bonchester, Rubberslaw, and Windbrugh, caps of trap, greenstone, or probably a species of basalt, though not, unless in this latter site, assuming the basaltic form. A singular dike, varying from two to six yards wide, crosses the lower part of the parish from east to west, and continues its course through the greywacke as well as through the sandstone. Its material is greenstone, or something analogous, with a considerable proportion of iron, which is oxidized whenever it lies in contact with the air or penetrable soil. This dike is clearly shown at Hallrule mill; thence it extends in a westerly direction to Hawick,—making its appearance at the Glen, at Kirkton, Miller's Knowe, and other places on the line, where it is wrought for metalling the roads. It may also be traced eastwards across the Jed near Edgerston. Other troubles of lesser

note may be observed in the red sandstone, by which the strata are heaved up and otherwise deranged.

At Robertslin, near Limekilnedge, occurs a stratum of agate or coarse jasper, which has frequently been employed for seals and other ornaments. Its prevailing colour is reddish, clouded and streaked with blue, crimson, and yellow, generally presenting but little transparency. Portions of fossil wood are found in the water-course, brought down from the hills; but none have been discovered *in situ*.

The soil over the sandstone is a reddish clay, among which are numerous large rounded stones, commonly blue, more rarely black, rolled from the greywacke and basaltic rocks. These, mixed with red sandstone, form the channel of the river. Moreover, there occur frequently smaller stones, of two or three pounds weight, of an oval shape, sometimes of a flesh colour, sometimes of a white quartz look, such as occur in coarse conglomerate. Of this, in fact, a mass is exposed by the Catlie Burn near Wauchope garden, where the sandstone formation terminates.

Zoology.—Judging from the names of places in the neighbourhood, it would appear that the hart, the hind, the wolf, &c. were formerly natives of this district. Thus, we have Hartshaugh, Hindlee, Wolflee, Swanshiel, Ernescleugh, &c. Foxes still commit nightly depredations upon the poultry-yard, and otters have been discovered on the banks of the stream about Wells. There, also, among the lofty trees, herons build their nests; and squirrels latterly have been seen in the woods.

The Rule abounds with excellent trout, and is esteemed an excellent stream for angling; but some dexterity is required, from its being shallow, and in many places fringed with alders. Few salmon or sea-trout visit its waters, and that never but in spawning season, when they are killed without any regard to prohibitory statutes. It is to be regretted that the small streams are so generally swept with nets, which not only diminish the angler's legitimate sport, but destroy much of the salmon fry ere they reach the sea.

The sides of the valley are plentifully and beautifully wooded, —in a manner scarcely equalled in this part of the country. Birch, hazel, alder, and ash, are of natural growth. Oak, beech, elm, and the different kinds of fir, seem most congenial to the soil, and attain to a state of great perfection.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no event in our knowledge that deserves to be noticed under this head. The abbey of Jedburgh possessed lands in the parish; and probably some facts in its history might be learned from monkish records. The remains of numerous fortifications testify that this, like other border districts, had been the scene of frequent conflicts. Queen Mary traversed this parish on her way from Jedburgh to Hermitage Castle, when, a little beyond its extremity, she got entangled in the Queen's Mire.

The Rev. Robert Riccalton, minister of the parish from 1725 to 1769, was a man of considerable talent, an independent thinker, and an author of two volumes of essays and sermons. With him the poet Thomson spent part of his early life, and is said here to have formed the plan of his *Seasons*, and taken many of his descriptions from scenes in the neighbourhood.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, Sir W. F. Elliot, Bart. of Stobs and Wells; Robert K. Elliot, Esq. of Harwood; Walter Scott, Esq. of Wauchope; Hon. J. Sinclair of Greenriver; and James Elliot, Esq. of Wolflee. Altogether there are but nine heritors in the parish.

Antiquities.—On Bonchester Hill, there are remains of a citadel, with numerous encampments, both round and square; and in some places, modern circumvallations may be observed intersecting the more ancient. The situation is commanding, and seems to have been regarded as a place of great strength and convenience. The estimation in which it was held by the Romans no doubt procured it the appellation Bonchester, *i. e.* *Bona Castra*, or the good camp. Hand mill-stones, arrow-heads, and other implements of former times, have been found in the vicinity. On Rubberslaw, at Wauchope, and in several other places, there are likewise vestiges of encampments or fortifications. In digging, some time ago, at Langraw, a quantity of ashes and partly-consumed bones were exposed within a circular area about eighteen feet diameter. On these being removed, four holes drilled in the *dent* or sandstone shale were discovered, in which posts had been secured by small stones crammed in from above. Whether these posts had supported a canopy or a funeral pile, or what had been the purpose of the erection, we are unable to determine. Several urns have been dug up in different situations. Two cairns have been removed within the memory of the present generation; one on the east side of Rub-

berslaw, the other at Fodderlee, near to a place where tradition says a battle had been fought.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|
| Population in 1801, | - | 760 |
| 1811, | - | 709 |
| 1821, | - | 652 |
| 1831, | - | 676 |

The enlargement of farms has been the principal cause of the late decrease of population,—conjoined with emigration to manufacturing towns, and even to foreign countries.

There is no town, and nothing that can properly be called a village, within the parish.

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| The annual average of births during the last seven years, may be | - | 14 |
| deaths, | - | 9 |
| marriages, | - | 3 |
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age, | - | 271 |
| between 15 and 30, | - | 128 |
| 30 and 50, | - | 187 |
| 50 and 70, | - | 72 |
| above 70, | - | 18 |
| The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50, | - | 16 |
| of unmarried females upwards of 45, | - | 23 |
| of families in the parish, | - | 121 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | 53 |
| in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, | - | 27 |
| The average number of children in each family may be | - | 4 |
| Number of inhabited houses, | - | 122 |
| uninhabited, do. | - | 2 |

During the last three years there have been six illegitimate births in the parish.

Poaching, especially the snaring of game, prevails to a considerable extent. Smuggling and illicit distilling are not now practised.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The estimate hazarded above gives about 19,000 acres for the area of the parish; of these, 3400 are in tillage or laid out in grass parks. There may be 860 acres in plantations, mostly in a very thriving condition. Those towards the upper part are sufficiently thinned and regularly tended; those in the lower part are sadly neglected, though in many places excellent timber might be felled with great advantage to the remainder. We have already mentioned that firs, beeches, and oaks, succeed best in this soil. Admirable specimens of these may be seen at Wells, Weens, and Greenriver. More recently, ash, elm, birch, &c. have been mingled; but few of these have as yet attained great value.

Rent, &c.—The average rent of land may be 15s., and none is let so high as L. 2 per acre. The average sum paid for grazing a three year-old ox or cow L. 6; a two-year old L. 4; a hill sheep 5s. 6d., infield do. 12s.

Rate of Wages, &c.—Labourers earn about 1s. 9d. a day throughout the year; artisans, 2s. or 2s. 3d.; men-servants get about L. 10 a year; women L. 4 or L. 4, 10s. during the summer, and L. 2 in winter. A hind is sometimes paid in the following manner: A free house worth probably L. 2; 10 bolls oats; 2 do. barley; 1 do. of pease; 4 carts of coals; 1000 yards of potatoes, a capful of lint-seed or a bushel of barley sown,—the master preparing and manuring the ground. Bondage work is general in the district, that is to say, every cottage is bound to furnish the farmer with a field worker, paid at the rate of 10d. a-day.

Lime costs 8s. 6d. a single cart load; good stable-dung, 3s. Bone manure may be purchased, ten miles distant, at L. 1, 1s. a quarter. Turnips 3d. a week per sheep. Hay 8d. a stone of 22 lbs.

Stock, &c.—The common breed of sheep is the Cheviot, crossed more or less with the Leicester. One gentleman has for some years kept a few merinos. The cattle are mostly of the short-horned breed. There may be 9500 sheep in the parish, 300 cattle, and about 80 horses. The annual quantity of wool sold may be guessed at 2000 stones of 24 lbs. each, which in price might average last year L. 1, 6s., counting the white L. 1, 10s., and the laid wool, L. 1, per stone.

The duration of leases varies from nine to nineteen years; but, of late, from the uncertainty of the times, short periods have generally been adopted.

Husbandry.—Considerable attention has been paid to farming, both as regards the improvement of stock, and the melioration of the soil. There is no want of capital for profitable enterprise. Five out of the nine heritors farm all or great part of their estates. The system of husbandry is good, and calculated directly to enrich the country. Draining and liming have been executed with manifest advantage. Much heath, too, has been reclaimed within these forty years. Perhaps more land has been brought under the plough than will yield a profitable return, unless it be afterwards laid down permanently in grass.

The older farm-buildings are very indifferent; the newer ones are good, and afford ample conveniences.

Enclosures.—The enclosures are improving. Feal or turf dikes are now seldom employed. Stone walls and hedges are generally in use. The former are the most effectual; but they are like-

wise the most expensive. A good five-foot wall may be erected for 6s. to 11s. per rood of eighteen feet, according to the distance from quarries. The building costs about 2s., the quarrying 2s. or 3s., and the leading makes up the remainder. Two kinds of hedges are employed for enclosures. 1st, That of thorn, which is here apt to moss up and canker, from the dampness of the climate. 2d, That of whin or furze, which has been lately introduced with apparently great advantage. It is at once cheaper than thorn, more easily reared, and sooner available as a fence. As this is a subject of importance to farmers, the following comparative view may be acceptable:—*Thorn*. Making ditch per rood, 10d.; thorns at 10d., 64 to a rood, including transport, 8d.; fencing with stake and rice, 1s. 0½d.; total, 2s. 6½d. This, in order to be a competent hedge, will require six or seven years of incessant care, and at least one renewal of the protecting fence.—*Whin*. Making bed, 3d.; ditch if required, 3d.; seed at 1s. per lb. 1d.; fencing 1s. 0½d.; total, 1s. 7½d. In four, or at most five years, this will be an efficient fence without any renewal of the temporary protection.

The calculation of the stake and rice stands thus: Rice at 1s. per cart, 3d. per rood; stakes, eight to the rood, 6d.; carting, 2d., putting up, 1½d.; total, 1s. 0½d. Three bar pailing will run thus: Wood, say 2s. 5d.; sawing, 4½d.; nails, eleven to the rood, at 10d., 1d.; labour, 1½d.; carting, 2d.; total, 3s. 2d.

Pailing is certainly preferable on the score of cleanliness; for a stake and rice fence harbours weeds. But this latter, besides being cheaper, turns to use an article, which would otherwise be in a great measure lost, viz. the thinnings of plantations. The seed of the whin is sown in April, and the plants, if kept from rotting by too much wetness, shoot away rapidly in the course of the season. The hedge being evergreen, presents a warm and beautiful appearance throughout the year; but regular pruning or switching up is necessary in order to prevent decay in the heart, and seeding. From this latter source, indeed, is anticipated the greatest objection to this kind of fence; for unless carefully watched, the furze will soon usurp the whole field.

Produce.—The following may be regarded as an approach to the value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish:

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|--|---|---|-------------|
| Of the 3400 acres under tillage, there may be 1500 in grain, ½ oats, | | | |
| ½ wheat, barley, &c. at say L. 3, 10s. per acre, | - | - | L. 5250 0 0 |
| 280 Turnips, L. 4, | - | - | 1120 0 0 |
| 70 Potatoes, L. 7, | - | - | 490 0 0 |
| 950 Grass and hay, at L. 2, | - | - | 1900 0 0 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|------|---|---|
| 14800 Pasture, at 5s. say, | - | - | 3700 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 acres garden, say | - | - | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Woods should give, | - | - | 240 | 0 | 0 |

L. 12800 0 0

The valued rent of the parish is L. 4152; the actual rent in 1821 was L. 7095.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Hawick and Jedburgh, at the distance of eight miles, are the nearest market-towns. The latter has been usually reckoned the post-town; but a post-office in connection with Hawick has just been established at Bonchester Bridge. This will afford great accommodation to the inhabitants, and gain a day or two upon the transmission of replies to letters from London and Edinburgh.

The turnpike road from Hawick to Newcastle crosses the parish, from east to west, for about three miles and a-half, and that from Jedburgh to Castleton, north and south, for about ten miles. There are, besides, several statute-labour roads kept in tolerable repair. Altogether, their length may be upwards of twenty miles. Across the Rule are three stone-bridges, besides wooden ones, and others across burns or small torrents, in various directions.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is very centrally placed, though at a considerable distance from the extremities of the parish. It was built towards the beginning of last century, and since 1777 has undergone no repairs of any consequence. Its present condition is far from comfortable. The earthen floor is two steps below the level of the churchyard. The roof is nevertheless so low, that in the galleries there is not room at the sides to stand upright. The seating is in bad repair. The whole is dark, damp, and dirty. The interior, if properly laid out, might contain 400 sitters.

The manse was built seventy years ago, and has just undergone some inadequate repairs. The extent of the glebe around the manse may be 15 acres; and half of Abbotrule glebe 24 acres: value of the whole about L. 40. The stipend modified in victual is 15 chalders, one-half meal, and one-half barley.

There are 28 families in the parish attending the chapels of dissenters or Seceders.

Education.—The parochial school is situated by the churchyard wall, and is well attended, though its distance from the extremities of the parish is too great for young children. The number of scholars may average 60 throughout the year. They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. The master's salary is L. 31, 10s. per annum, including an equivalent for a garden: his fees may amount

to L. 22 per annum. A juvenile school is taught by a mistress in the lower part of the parish. The benefits of education are duly appreciated and universally acquired.

Library.—A subscription library has just been commenced, and is likely to be of considerable advantage.

Savings-Bank.—There is no Savings bank in the parish; but lodgments are made, chiefly by servants, in that of Jedburgh or of Hawick.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of paupers deriving aid from parochial assessment is 20, at the rate of L. 4 each per annum. A few receive temporary assistance from the session fund. It is gratifying to remark, that the genuine Scottish independence is not quite gone in this district; several individuals in real need, have manifested great reluctance to accept any parish relief. The total amount of assessment is about L. 80 per annum; and of church collections about L. 12. There is a benefaction of L. 100 left by Lady Yester, the interest of which is annually divided between the heritors and the schoolmaster.

Inns.—There is but one inn or public-house within the parish, viz. at Bonchester Bridge on the Newcastle road. The effects of such establishments on the morals of the people are never good; yet there is less drunkenness now than once prevailed. The practice of giving licence to the keepers of the toll-gates, stubbornly maintained by road trustees, is much to be deprecated. If refreshment be necessary, the license might at least be restricted to ale, and thus probably one-half of the evil would be removed.

Fuel.—Peat, turf, and wood, are burnt in the cottars' houses, but the fuel principally used is coal, which is brought from Northumberland, a distance of about twenty miles. It may be purchased at 9d. or 10d. a cwt. Coals could be procured both nearer and better at Tynehead, if the Duke of Northumberland would allow a road to be made in that quarter. There, a level and easy communication across the border might be obtained at no great expense; and it is much to be lamented that His Grace should deny the neighbourhood so great a benefit, merely through a dislike to break up the privacy of Keildar Castle.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The parish, within these last forty years, has been vastly improved in its general aspect; and here an acknowledgment is due to the late Mr Wilson of Hallrule, and especially to Mr Elliot of Wolflee. Much waste land has been reclaimed and brought into

a proper state of cultivation. The quantity under tillage has been more than doubled. Many plantations have been formed, and present a thriving appearance. The value of the district generally has been immensely increased. There is, however, still room in the western or south-western skirts of the parish for additional plantations to beautify and improve the ground.

The following improvements in husbandry may be submitted as occurring in this parish.

1. *Deep Ploughing.*—This has of late been introduced with very beneficial results. In certain soils, particularly in lands reclaimed from moor, there exists, not much below the surface, a stiff, dense and sterile clay, which denies all passage to moisture, as well as to the roots of plants. This stratum, commonly denominated *muir-band*, in some places only a few inches thick, may be readily pierced and broken, by using a plough without mould-boards, following in the furrow made by a common plough. This, drawn by three horses, or better still by oxen, will penetrate to a depth of sixteen or eighteen inches, and even raise stones of a considerable weight. The advantage of this procedure is, that the disturbed stratum will either deepen the soil generally, or act as a drain for superfluous moisture in wet lands; while in dry lands, it will serve as a reservoir to the plants when the superincumbent moisture is exhausted.

2. *Selection of Grasses for cultivation.*—Very seldom is any other kind than rye-grass with red and white clover sown. Yet it is allowed, that these are not equally adapted to every soil, whether wet or dry, rich or poor, moor or loam. It is to be regretted that farmers who have some knowledge of botany have not directed their attention to this most legitimate and beneficial purpose. The fitting soils for wheat, for barley, and for oats, have been long ascertained, and why might not experience be as successfully employed to discover the most congenial kinds of grasses and clovers? Italian rye-grass has been lately introduced into Galloway with much promise of advantage. It might be tried on the banks of the Rule.

3. *Top-Dressing of Grass Lands.*—The improvement of pasturage is of vital importance; and in general grass thrives well in this district. Its growth might be farther promoted by applying compost or short dung to the surface. Such a practice, with sufficient draining, will be found to yield a profitable return. It is the fault of the damp climate more than the soil, when the grain crops fail;

and as that will not affect lands in grass, the return from them is always certain.

It might be farther noticed, that the disease called *finger-and-toes* is occasionally very hurtful to the turnip crop. Lime has been regarded as the most successful remedy, and bone manure has been thought favourable. Amongst live-stock, the *loup-ing-ill* is a severe scourge, the loss by it ranging from five to ten, and even twenty per cent. This disease, as yet little understood, is attended with curious and very peculiar circumstances. It is attached to particular soils, most commonly to those where the greywacke predominates; and it may be remarked, that stock brought from a distance is more liable to it than what has been reared on the ground. It usually makes its appearance towards the middle of April, with the withering east winds of that period, and leaves the flock, (with the exception of a few irregular cases,) about the middle of June. It attacks sheep, cattle, and swine. It resembles paralysis affecting the limbs, sometimes the head or neck, and occasionally the back. Wherever it occurs, the vermin called *ticks* are found to accompany it. Severe bleeding at an early stage of the disease has been practised with advantage; but no infallible mode of treatment has been discovered for its cure. By plentifully liming the soil, it has been eradicated from certain farms. Burning would probably have the like effect, as it is presumable the disease may be occasioned by the puncture of the insects, with which it is always attended. These, it is well known, are bred in the earth, and get upon the sheep either by their legs or by their muzzle when feeding. Hence the parts usually affected are the limbs or the neck. This interesting subject is well worth the serious attention of farmers.

As a general improvement, perhaps, the opening of a road into Tynehead would be the greatest of which the parish is susceptible. By this means, abundance of coal might be procured at a cheap rate for the poor, and likewise for burning the limestone, which might be more extensively wrought at Limekilnedge and in Castle-ton. It would likewise furnish an ample and less expensive supply for the manufacturing town of Hawick and the neighbouring districts. The attention of proprietors and tenants has been more than once directed to this object; and it is deeply to be regretted, that neither the prospect of an increased revenue, nor the desire of conferring a great public boon on the west of Roxburghshire, induces the Duke of Northumberland to countenance the scheme.

March 1836.

PARISH OF ECKFORD.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. JOSEPH YAIR, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is compounded of *aec*, an oak, and *ford*, a passage over a river,—referring to the oaks which anciently prevailed in the district, and to a ford in the Teviot, within a short distance of the village, which bears the name of the parish. * It is probable that to this village the appellation Eckford was primarily confined; but that in process of time it came to be applied to the whole parish.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is nearly of a triangular form, with its base towards the east: and is about 6 miles at its greatest length, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ at its greatest breadth. It is bounded, on the north, by Roxburgh and projecting portions of Kelso and Sprouston; on the east by Linton, Morebattle, and Hounam; on the south, by Jedburgh; and on the west, by Crailing.

Topographical Appearances.—This parish presents throughout an undulating appearance, gradually rising as it extends towards the south, and occasionally swelling into elevations, which command an extensive view of the circumjacent country. There are no remarkable heights in the parish, but the chief eminences are Woodenhill and Cavertonhill. From Woodenhill, the spectator looking towards the west, may survey, for the space of many miles, the vale of the Teviot, with the tortuous course of that classic stream,—the neatly enclosed and highly fertile fields which stretch along its banks—the well kept and thriving plantations which here and there extend to the river's edge, and which, together with Peniel-heugh, Minto-hill, Minto-crag, and Ruberslaw in the distance,

* This ford was anciently called the ford at the *aecs*. In the bed of the river near the ford, oaks of considerable dimensions have occasionally been seen. Within these thirty years, a tree of this kind, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ feet in diameter, was dragged out by Mr Mather of Kalemouth, and immediately on its removal he perceived another lying directly under it. About three miles farther up the river, in a deep pool, an oak is said to have been seen, so very large that its trunk in some places amounted to about 4 feet 4 inches in diameter.

form a landscape peculiarly picturesque and delightful. But not less striking is the valley of the Kale, which embraces a narrower track of country, and which, from various points of the parish, may be viewed to great advantage. This valley is interesting in a high degree, and more especially where it begins to open up in the direction of Marlefield on the west, and Linton on the east. Whether from the historical associations with which it is invested, or from the natural character of the scenery, or the beautiful range of hills which form its back ground on the south and east, it cannot be contemplated by the intelligent observer but with delight.

Climate.—The atmosphere here is for the most part mild and salubrious. The winds which chiefly prevail are from the west, but gales in severe storms, in general, blow from the south-east. Ague, once an epidemic in the district, is now quite unknown. Its disappearance may be traced to the improved system of drainage, which is now so successfully pursued in this quarter, and to the consequent diminution of those noxious exhalations which were wont occasionally to issue from the lower grounds.

Hydrography.—There are two rivers which flow through this parish, the Teviot and the Kale: the Teviot takes its rise among the heights which separate Dumfries-shire from Roxburghshire, and after running in a north-easterly direction about thirty-nine miles, in the course of which it is augmented by a vast number of tributary streams, it disembogues itself into the Tweed near Kelso. This river, immediately on entering the parish, proceeds in a northerly direction, and leaves the ancient Barony of Ormiston, consisting of 680 acres, on its northern extremity. The Kale issues from among the Cheviots in the county of Northumberland, and, after a rapid course of eighteen miles, it discharges its waters into the Teviot somewhat to the north of Eckford church. This is a much smaller stream than the Teviot, but more impetuous in its current. It runs through the parish in a north-westerly direction, and divides it nearly into two equal parts. In some places, its banks are bold and romantic in a high degree, and beautifully overhung with wood. Both these rivers are occasionally subject to sudden inundations, which, by breaking down embankments occasion considerable detriment.—There is one small lake in the parish, measuring about 13 acres in extent. It lies at the bottom of Woodenhill, a little to the south of the village of Eckford moss, and forms the bed of a marl-pit, which was once wrought in the district. It is in some places

about 30 feet in depth, and when seen at a distance constitutes a beautiful object.

Geology.—The rocks that predominate in the parish are of the sandstone and trap formation: the former occupies the lower, and the latter the higher parts of the district. Of these rocks there are several quarries, some of them of excellent quality. Many years ago, a small seam of coal was discovered at Caverton edge, in this parish; but the investigation was not carried far enough to be followed up with any beneficial result. Both peat and marl once existed in the district,—the one mostly incumbent on the other; and imbedded in these, animal and vegetable remains have been found. “In wester moss, nuts, roots, pieces of large oak and other trees have been dug up, also the skull of a bison, and the horns of a red-deer very large.” These horns, which at present are in the possession of Mr Robert Church, farmer, Moss-tower, have seven branches, and are supposed to be in weight about two stones. At what distance from the surface these remains were discovered, it is impossible now to determine.

Soil.—The soil in the parish is various: that on the lower grounds towards the Teviot is a light mould, while that on the higher grounds towards the south partakes more of a clayey character. On the same farm, however, there is often a great variety of soil; but the crops which it yields are for the most part rich and abundant.

Zoology.—This parish presents to the zoologist no rare species of animals. In the rivers, salmon and trout are in great abundance, and of excellent quality. The trout of the Kale is peculiarly delicious in its flavour. Hares, rabbits, partridges, and pheasants abound in the district, and on Ceesford moor the heathcock is occasionally seen. The starling, that most tractable of birds, visits the parish yearly, and often nestles among the rocky cliffs that overhang the Kale. Within these few years, a cuckow was discovered in this place, in the nest of a small bird. With great care it was fed for some weeks on small pieces of flesh, and on these it seemed to thrive well. It was extremely voracious, and, so far from being discontented with its situation, always appeared quite at home.

Botany.—The parish presents, upon the whole, a wooded appearance. Almost all kinds of forest trees flourish here, and appear to be quite congenial to the soil. The most common species, however, is the fir tribe, of which there is a forest consisting of 360 acres

on Caverton edge, where the Kelso races were formerly held.* There are three aged yew trees in the churchyard, but at what time they were planted it is difficult to say. Close to the ancient mansion-house of Hall of Haughhead, stands a stately ash tree, under whose shade the children of that noted individual are reported by tradition to have been baptized.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—This parish, the southern extremity of which lies within a few miles of the borders, was the scene of frequent rapine and devastation in former times. The village of Eckford, which was once a place of considerable note, was burnt by the English under the Marquis of Dorset in April 1553, along with many other places in the district. Within the bounds of this parish, there were of old several strengths or strongholds, such as Ormiston-tower, Eckford-tower, Wooden-tower, and Moss-tower; but of these the last mentioned was by far the most important. This was situated about the eighth part of a mile to the north-east of the village of Eckford, and within a few yards of the present farm-house, which now bears its name. It was so called, from a piece of marshy ground in its immediate vicinity, and is reported to have been once a residence of Hepburn Earl of Bothwell.† In an ancient chronicle, it is represented as surrounded by a marsh, and as accessible only at one point by a causeway. This the farmer at present is in the act of removing from its ancient site. On the 30th of June 1523, it was destroyed by a party of English headed by Thomas Lord Dacre; and on the same day were demolished Ormiston-tower, and a vast number of other places in the neighbourhood. On the 6th September 1544, it was burnt along with the tower and church‡ of Eckford, by an army under Sir Ralph Eure, and forty-four persons, who were found in it, fell victims to

* This, from one of the titles of his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, is denominated the Bowmont forest.

† About fifteen years ago, some persons were employed to divide a common in this district, partly belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch, and partly to the Marquis of Lothian. A doubt having arisen, as to which of these proprietors a certain piece of ground should be assigned, an old man in the neighbourhood was examined on the question. After interrogation, he stated, that he had heard it reported, that some tenant on the laird of Buccleuch's lands here, had put out an ox to graze on the spot, but that the laird of Crailinghall, conceiving that a trespass had been committed, shot the animal. *Immediately upon this* (added the old man,) *Bothwell having girt on his armour, came up from his tower, to take vengeance on the aggressor, but before he arrived the laird had secured himself within his fortress. This anecdote certainly tends to strengthen the belief that Bothwell once resided at Moss-tower.*

‡ The ancient church bell of Eckford is at present in the belfry of the church of Carham, in the county of Northumberland. At what period it was carried off, it is difficult to determine. Probably it was at this time.

the fury of the assailants. Shortly after this, it appears to have been rebuilt; but it was again destroyed in 1570, by the Earl of Sussex, who, in the course of a few days, laid waste in this quarter a very extensive tract of country. Within these fifty years, the massive ruins of this ancient structure were unceremoniously pulled down, and that with a view of affording an easy access to materials for rearing the farm-offices which now stand near its site. The lands of Moss-tower anciently belonged to the Laird of Buccleuch, so celebrated in Border history, and is now the property of his descendant, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

But the most famous fortress in this parish was Cessford Castle,* which stands on its southern extremity, and which was the ancient manorial residence of Sir Robert Ker, commonly known by the name of Hobbie Ker, warden of the Scottish middle marches, from whom the Dukes of Roxburghe are descended.† This is, at present, a mere ruin; but from what remains of it, some conjecture may be formed of its pristine greatness. The main building is about 67 feet long, 60 feet broad, and 65 feet high, and the walls in point of thickness amount at an average to about 13 feet broad. The dungeon, which is situated nearly in the centre of the fortress, is still open to inspection: it consists of a damp gloomy apartment 20 feet in length, 10 in breadth, and 13 in height, with a slanting air-hole 'looking toward the east. At the west end of this apartment, is a subterraneous vault, which was anciently known by the name of the dungeon *peel*, and which was probably chiefly

* Here towards the close of the sixteenth century, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, is reported by tradition to have been for a time confined. While riding in the vicinity of Edinburgh, he was seized by a moss-trooper, who, wrapping a cloak around him, mounted him on his steed, and carried him off to this fortress. Here he was detained till a law-suit, which was then pending before the Supreme Court, and in reference to which he was held to entertain opinions hostile to one of the parties, was decided. After this, he was conveyed, after a like fashion, to the spot where he had been taken up; and being set at liberty, he shortly after appeared to their great surprise and joy, in the midst of his family, who had long since conceived he had been assassinated. Some time thereafter, being on a visit at Cessford Castle, he was startled at hearing, in the act of calling for his dog, the well known voice of a shepherd, which had sounded every morning in his ear during the time of his imprisonment, and which convinced him that this was actually the very spot of it. Upon subsequent investigation he found that his opinion was correct.

† Andrew Ker of Attonburn, in 1446, was probably the first of the noble family of Ker, who occupied this castle. In that year he obtained, as is mentioned by the writer of the last Account, a charter of the barony of Cessford, from Archibald Earl Douglas, who was afterwards known by the name of Duke of Turenne or Longuiville. The most illustrious of his descendants, appears to have been the above-mentioned Sir Robert Ker, who was born 1570, and who is here still spoken of as one of the most powerful men of his times. In 1606, he was raised to the Peerage by the title of Lord Roxburghe, and in 1616 he was elevated to the rank of Earl of Roxburghe, and Lord Ker of Cessford, and Caverton. He died 1650. His descendant, John the third Earl of Roxburghe, was created a Duke in 1707.

intended either as a reservoir for water, or as a depository for goods. Some have averred that it was occasionally employed as a prison, and perhaps this averment is founded on fact. There is an air-hole on the south side of it, but it is so constructed that not a ray of light can possibly be admitted. This vault measures about 10 feet long, 17 feet broad, and 9 feet deep. The only entrance to it was by an aperture at the top, "and this was kept shut as necessity required, by a large stone* with an iron ring in it." The roof, which rose several feet above the level of the dungeon, was arched, but it is now completely gone. Anciently, this fortress was surrounded by an inner and an outer wall: the former has entirely disappeared, but some remains of the latter still exist. The space between these walls, as may be inferred from the history of all border strengths, was primarily appropriated for the reception of cattle, in which the wealth of the marchmen principally consisted. A moat once surrounded the whole out-works, and of this some traces are still to be seen. Probably, it was supplied with water from a spring, which lies about a quarter of a mile to the south.

This fortress, from its great importance, was often the scene of hostile invasion in ancient times. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Earl of Surrey, after destroying a number of places in the neighbourhood, attempted to take it by assault; but he asserts in a letter addressed to his sovereign, on the 21st May 1523, that, had the owner not agreed to capitulate, he would have been unable to have obtained possession of it at all. With the exceptions of Fast Castle and Dunbar Castle, he represents it as the strongest place in Scotland; but this he did, in all likelihood, to magnify his own exploits, in the eye of his capricious master. This castle, there is reason to believe, ceased to be regularly occupied by the noble family of Roxburghe, shortly before the death of Sir Robert Ker in 1650, and since that period, it has been allowed, in all probability gradually, to go into a state of dilapidation. According to the testimony, however, of Wodrow, the historian, Henry Hall of Haughhead, and some others of the Covenanters, were confined as prisoners here in 1666; but the former, through the influence of the then Earl of Roxburghe, his friend and relation, accomplished his release. The ancient key of this fortress was accidentally discovered by a boy some years ago. It was dragged out from an aperture in the inside of the wall, close to the main door, where for nearly two centuries it had probably lain undisturbed. It

* The Rev. Mr Paton, the writer of the last account, observes, that this stone and ring some persons had seen who were alive in his day.

was of a very antique form, and measured about 11 inches in length. It is now in the possession of His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe.

About a quarter of a mile to the north of the castle, in a steep bank close to Cessford-burn, is an artificial cave of considerable dimensions. It is in a very sequestered spot, and might be often passed and repassed without attracting observation. It is known by the name of Hobbie Ker's cave.

On the southern banks of the Kale, near Eckford mill, is the small estate of Haughhead, which is one of the most retired spots in the parish, and which was once the property of Robert Hall, usually known by the name of Hobbie Hall, a man remarkable both for his piety and his bodily strength. About a quarter of a mile to the south of his ancient mansion-house, which is still in a tolerably good state of repair, is a mount which measures in circumference 218 feet, and to which the appellation of Haughhead *Kipp* is given. This is composed of artificial layers of earth and stone, and is surrounded with a clump of old fir trees, which, standing out from the extremity of a belt of young plantation, gives to the place when viewed at a distance, something like a turreted appearance. Placed on the summit of this mount is a rude stone, which, according to tradition, records a triumph achieved by Hall over Ker of Cessford, when ousted in his attempt to take lawless possession of his property. The stone has been wantonly broken; but the inscription on it, which is now scarcely legible, is as follows:

Here Hoby Hall boldly maintained his right,
Gainst Reif plain force armed with lawles might,
For Twenty Pleughs harnes'd in all their Gear,
Could not his valient nobl Heart make Fear,
But with his sword he cut the formost Soam
In two : hence drove both pleughs and
Pleughmen home. 1620.

About a quarter of a mile to the east of this mount, in a deep ravine through which the Kale over a rocky bed winds its way, is a sequestered spot where tent-preachings were wont to be held by the Covenanters of old; and a little farther down, on the opposite side of the stream, near Grahamslaw farm-house, are to be seen several artificial caves of various dimensions, whither that persecuted people used to flee for refuge, in times of danger. As is mentioned by Wodrow, they had two great conventicles in Scotland,—the one at Haughhead, in this parish, and the other at Maybole, in the county of Ayr. From Henry Hall,* the then proprietor of Haughhead, an individual both of the most undaunted courage and of the most unaffected

* It is probable that this person was the son of the above-mentioned Robert or Hobbie Hall.

ed zeal in the cause of religious truth, they experienced all the countenance and protection which his circumstances could afford. This excellent person, as is well known, died while on his way, as a prisoner, to Edinburgh, in consequence of being struck with a carabine by Thomas George, Queensferry; and on his person was found a rude unsubscribed draught of a covenant, which is commonly known by the name of the Queensferry paper.*

Stone coffins have been frequently found in this parish. One was discovered in a field called the Priest's Crown on the farm of Eckford Eastmains, in 1831, containing a few decayed bones in one corner, and a small jar with some black dust in it in the other. The jar was supposed to have been a Roman one, but it was unfortunately destroyed. On the farm of Moss-tower, a medal of the Empress Faustina was found in the heart of a peat, with the inscription quite distinct. It was presented by the late tenant to a member of the noble family of Douglas. A little to the west of Caverton-hill-head cottages, are the remains of a tumulus of considerable extent, which is now nearly on a level with the contiguous field, and which is said to have been an ancient burying ground. No bones have as yet been discovered in it, but it has not hitherto been sufficiently examined; it is called *the black dike*. At Caverton† there is an old grave-yard, now scarcely ever used. Near to it stood a chapel, of which there are now no remains. It was founded by Walter Ker of Cessford, and confirmed by charter under the grand Seal in the year 1500. Close to this was a well which used to be called the Priest's well, but by this name it has almost ceased to be known.

* Near the south-west corner of the field, to the west of the manse, is a bog, which has of late been drained, and with which is connected a curious tradition. It is averred, that on this spot a smith's house, with his smithy and other appurtenances, once stood, and that the members of his family were of a very disorderly description of character. On the morning of a Sabbath, while the people from the vicinity were passing on their way to church, the whole place exhibited a scene of tumult and confusion; but on their return from it a few hours after, every vestige of a human habitation had disappeared, and nothing was to be seen but the bog, with which the spot was supposed to have been cursed. That this bog would never be drained was long believed in the district, and circumstances for a time seemed to justify the opinion. Several attempts were made for this purpose; but all proved for a time to be utterly ineffectual. On one of these occasions, however, a smith's anvil was found buried in the marsh, and this was considered as at once confirmatory of the truth of the tradition. The anvil was in tolerable preservation, and was intended to have been given to the late Sir Walter Scott, to whom an account of the tradition had been communicated. The hill, at the bottom of which the bog was situated, is called the Smithy-hill.

† The Barony of Caverton anciently belonged to Lord Soulis, who forfeited his property, in consequence of his being engaged in a conspiracy against Robert the Bruce, towards the beginning of the fourteenth century. The life of this nobleman was spared, although he was imprisoned in Dumbarton Castle till his death. According to tradition, however, he was boiled alive, on the strength of a hasty expression of the King, in a cauldron, at a place called the Ninestane rig, in the vicinity of Hermitage water.

Eminent Men.—In this parish, at Marlefield,* was born Sir William Bennet of Grubbet, a man of excellent taste and great literary attainments, and a distinguished patron of talent and learning in his day. This individual was the intimate friend of Thomson and Ramsay, and has been represented to be the Sir William Worthy of the celebrated pastoral poem † written by the latter. Indeed it is affirmed that both he and Thomson had some share in the composition of the comedy. In this parish, he lived during the greater part of his life, and by the community at large was held in high estimation. ‡

In the society of this distinguished individual, Thomson spent

* The House of Marlefield is a very spacious edifice. In front of it is a most beautiful lawn, and the grounds in its vicinity are in various places embellished with rows of magnificent lime-trees. This estate was much improved by the late tenant, Mr Ralph Oliphant, a gentleman who was highly respected in the district for his amiable and obliging deportment; and it is but a just tribute to his memory to add, that he took a deep interest in every matter connected with the welfare of the parish.

† Tradition avers that the scene of the Gentle Shepherd lies in the vicinity of Marlefield House; but with what truth the writer of this account does not presume to determine. Doubtless, however, many of the descriptions, as given in the poem, correspond with the character of the scenery here. On this estate anciently stood a cottage which went by the name of *Symon's House*, and here too is a field which was wont to be called *Symon's Field*. In this district, also, once resided two old women who have been represented as answering the characters of *Mause* and *Madge*. Within a short distance from Marlefield, to which Ramsay refers by name in one of his poems, is a sequestered spot called *Habbie's How*, through which, over a pebbly channel, runs a small burn or rivulet on its way to the Kale. This burn, which in some parts is confined within pretty steep banks, flowed, in the days of Bennet, close to Marlefield mansion-house; but in this quarter its course was altered many years ago through part of this estate. Along the bottom of a narrow glen flows also a small stream, which is vulgarly pronounced *Mowes Burn*, but from what source the term is derived it is perhaps impossible now to ascertain. Near this, too, is a small eminence which is denominated *Mowes knowe*. Here there are several craigs from which the "*Lover's loup*" may be most effectually taken. In the body of the poem, mention is made of the West-Port and Town of Edinburgh, as if these were not far distant from the scene of it; but it is well known that the tenantry here, in the time of the poet, used to drive their stock as regularly to that city for sale, as they at present do to the market at Morpeth. Of course their visits to Edinburgh in those days were of no rare occurrence. Indeed the phrase, "He was in at the Town," as referring to Edinburgh, is common in this district at the present day. Here the pastoral is reported to have been first acted, in the presence of the families of Marlefield and Clifton, and at the residence of the latter. As the above tradition exists in the parish, the writer of this account has judged it right to advert to it. Probably, however, Ramsay in the delineations of character and scenery which he gives in his admirable pastoral, confined himself to no particular district, but drew his descriptions from every proper source which at any time was most patent to his observation. Of course some licence, too, must be allowed to the imagination of the poet.

‡ Adjoining to the church, is the family aisle, where his remains are deposited; and over the entry is the following inscription, which is now much effaced:

Hoc
Monumentum
Sibi et suis bene Merentibus
ponendam curavit
Dominus Gulielmus Bennet
Eques auratus
anno salutis
1724.

some of the happiest days of his life, and was in all respects regarded as a member of the family. *

Richard Cameron, the founder of the Cameronians, was licensed at Haughhead, in this parish, to preach the gospel. In 1680 he was slain at the battle of Ayrs Moss.

Landholders.—In this parish, there are six landholders: His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe; His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; the Most Noble the Marquis of Tweeddale; Robert Mein, Esq. of Ormiston; the Heirs of the late Andrew Wilson, Esq. of Mainhouse; and William Ker, Esq. of Chatto. Of these the Duke of Roxburghe and the Duke of Buccleuch, are by far the largest proprietors; and to them, upwards of four-fifths of the parish belong.

Parochial Registers.—Of the parochial registers there are five volumes, and the date of the earliest entry is 27th May 1694. At present, they are very carefully kept; but as the dissenters do not regularly engross their children's names into the record, the list of baptisms cannot be so complete as it would otherwise be.

Public Buildings.—Within these few years, Mr William Mather, an observing mechanic of this place, having purchased about half an acre of land from the late William Mein, Esq. of Ormiston, has erected upon it an establishment for making all kinds of agricultural implements. This is one of the most extensive concerns of the kind in this quarter of the country, and the articles which are made here will, in point of workmanship, bear to be compared with any of a like description in the surrounding district. Here Mr Mather intends to erect a saw-mill ere long; and from such, considerable benefit may probably accrue to the neighbourhood. There are three mills in this parish where corn may be ground, viz. Ormiston mill, Eckford mill, and Caverton mill; but of these the first mentioned is by far the most

* It is worthy of remark, that the poet was apt to be extremely apprehensive of supernatural spirits. If after night fall, he chanced at any time to be on his way from Wideopen, his patrimonial property, to Marlefield, he was in the habit of regularly calling at a farm-house in the vicinity of the latter, and requesting one of the inmates to accompany him to the seat of his patron. Lady Bennet, who appears to have been a person of considerable humour, used sometimes to play on the weakness of the poet. Tradition avers that, on one occasion, when there was a large party at Marlefield, she dressed up a figure in the human form, and secretly deposited it in the bed of Thomson. The unsuspecting poet descried the figure, when on the eve of putting on his night dress, and his cries of terror proclaimed that the frolic had been successful. Rushing down stairs he entered the drawing-room in a state somewhat approaching to frenzy, and truly caused her Ladyship, who, in the impulse of the moment, threw an apron around him, to repent of the extravagance which she had committed. Within two miles of Marlefield, in the parish of Morebattle, is a hill on which Thomson is said to have written his Winter, and which, from its having two tops, is called Parnassus. Here, till of late years, his anniversary was wont to be celebrated by a large assemblage of his admirers of both sexes, from all parts in the neighbourhood.

important. There is also in this parish an excellent rice-mill, which was erected at Ormiston several years ago by the late proprietor; but, from circumstances, it has never as yet been in active operation.

III.—POPULATION.

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|--|---|---|------|
| In 1791 the population amounted to 952 | | | |
| 1801, | . | . | 978 |
| 1811, | . | . | 1007 |
| 1821, | . | . | 1133 |
| 1831, | . | . | 1148 |

There are, as nearly as can be ascertained, 17 births, 10 marriages, 16 deaths, at an average, in this parish in the course of the year. All the heritors have upwards of an annual rental of L. 50 Sterling, and only one of them resides in the parish. There are 2 deaf and dumb, and 3 fatuous persons in the district. The population of this parish, in so far as can be traced, is greater at present than it has been at any previous period of its history. This increase is no doubt owing to the general improvement which has taken place on the character of the soil, and which of course renders a greater number of hands necessary for the purposes of agriculture than formerly.

Character of the People.—The people are in general cleanly in their habits, industrious in their conduct, and regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and may be said upon the whole, to be contented with their circumstances in life. The ordinary food of the peasantry is meal, potatoes, butter-milk, and pork of their own rearing. The bread commonly used by them is a compound of barley and pease meal, and it is considered as extremely wholesome. To these is occasionally added a little butcher meat. Poaching, both in game and in the salmon fisheries, is not unfrequently practised in the district.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------|
| Land cultivated or occasionally in tillage, | - | - | 7728 acres. |
| uncultivated, | - | - | 1141 |
| in undivided common, | - | - | 19 |
| under wood, | - | - | 813 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is about L. 1, 2s. per acre. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow is L. 3; a ewe or full-grown sheep, 10s. The real rental of the parish in 1791 amounted to L. 3699, 4s. 1d. The present rental is L. 8676.

Husbandry.—The art of agriculture in this parish is in a highly improved state. The tenants are an active and industrious class of men,

and by their liming, draining, &c. are evincing a laudable anxiety still more to ameliorate the character of the soil. They are much attached to their landlords, who treat them in return with kindness and liberality. The largest farm in this parish is the Barony of Cessford, which consists of upwards of 2000 acres of land, and which has long been occupied by Mr Archibald M'Dougall, a gentleman whose ancestors resided for generations on the Roxburghe estate in this quarter, and who is well known to be one of the most skilful and intelligent agriculturists in the district. Within these thirty years, the improvements which he has effected on that property have been very great. In the course of that time, he has enclosed, at his own cost, the whole farm, drained it in the most efficient manner, and brought under cultivation upwards of 300 acres of moorland. Besides, he has removed all the old offices and cottages, and erected in a more eligible situation new ones of the neatest and most substantial kind. Independently of the expenses of liming the whole of this large farm, his outlay amounted to upwards of L. 4000.

The system of husbandry which is usually practised in this parish is the five-shift system. The turnips are partly eaten off the land by sheep, and partly stored up as provisions for fattening cattle during the winter. Of leases the usual duration is for nineteen years. The fences are in good order, and consist mostly of thorns. The farm-houses and offices are also in excellent order, and have been some of them erected within these twenty years.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, are as follow :

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------|----|---|
| 575 acres of wheat, at L. 8 per acre, | - | - | L. 4600 | 0 | 0 |
| 700 acres of barley, at L. 6, 18s. per acre, | - | - | 4830 | 0 | 0 |
| 1350 acres of oats, at L. 5 per acre, | - | - | 6750 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 acres of pease and beans, at L. 6, 10s. per acre, | - | - | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| 85 acres of potatoes, at L. 7 per acre, | - | - | 595 | 0 | 0 |
| 1100 acres of turnips, at L. 4 per acre, | - | - | 4400 | 0 | 0 |
| 315 acres of hay, at L. 5 per acre, | - | - | 1575 | 0 | 0 |
| 3435 acres of good pasture, at L. 1 per acre, | - | - | 3435 | 0 | 0 |
| 1013 acres of moorland, at 4s. per acre, | - | - | 202 | 12 | 0 |
| 269 acres of summer fallow, inclusive of 69 acres of waste land, | - | - | | | |
| 813 acres of wood, thinnings of do. | | | 244 | 0 | 0 |

L. 26,891 12 0

Breeds of Live Stock.—The sheep that are reared in this parish are of the Leicester breed, and every attention is paid to their improvement. The cattle which are fed here are almost all of the short-horned kind, and these are sometimes fattened to an immense size.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages, Market-Towns, Means of Communication.—There are several villages in this parish ; but the most important are Eckford, Cessford, and Caverton. The nearest market-towns are Kelso and Jedburgh, the former being about four miles and a half, and the latter about five miles and a half, distant from the parish church. About a mile and a half of the turnpike road between Hawick and Kelso runs through the parish ; and along this, a coach passes between these two places by the way of Jedburgh, every Tuesday and Friday. There is also a post which passes regularly along this line of road twice every day. In this parish, there are two stone bridges, both of one arch,—the one over the Kale near its junction with the Teviot, and the other over that stream near Eckford mill. The former was built many years ago at the expense of the county, and forms part of the great turnpike road which passes through the district ; the latter is reported to have been erected, towards the close of the seventeenth century, out of the proceeds of the stipend when there was no fixed pastor in the parish. There is, besides, an elegant chain bridge, which, a few years ago, was thrown over the Teviot near its confluence with the Kale, at the expense of the Late William Mein, Esq. Ormiston, and which, independently of the advantages resulting from it, forms a beautiful and interesting object. It was designed by Captain Samuel Brown of the Royal Navy, a gentleman whose talents and genius are well known, and the workmanship was executed in the most elegant and substantial manner by Mr William Mather, Kalemouth. The bridge is 180 feet in length, and 16 feet in breadth, and is intended for carriages as well as foot-passengers. There is a pontage upon it, which is as follows : for a foot-passenger $\frac{1}{2}$ d., for a horse or cart 3d., for a gig 6d., and for a chaise 1s.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which anciently belonged to the Abbey of Jedburgh, is in the gift of the Crown. It is beautifully situated on the southern banks of the Teviot, about a mile from the northern extremity of the parish. It was built in the year 1662, but since then it has undergone frequent repairs. It is a neat and an apparently substantial building, and contains about 300 sittings. Close to the eastern door of the church, is appended an iron collar, which is in a state of great preservation, and which is commonly known by the name of the *jugs*. In former times, church offenders were sometimes sentenced by kirk-sessions, to stand with it fastened round their neck, and clothed with sackcloth, for several Sabbaths, in pre-

sence of the congregation in token of their repentance and humiliation. The manse* was built in 1775, but since then it has undergone several repairs. In the year 1808, some additions were made to it, but these, perhaps from want of a proper inspector, were very insufficiently executed. The chief apartment of the house is, in appearance, a very handsome one, but it has not been occupied for several winters past, in consequence of its extreme cold. The extent of the glebe is about 7 acres, and its value may be rated at about L. 1, 15s. per acre. The stipend amounts to 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion expenses, and forty-two pounds of cheese from the tenant of Cessford, in the way of vicarage tithes. Besides this, the minister has a servitude for turf on a piece of moor-land, which lies on the south side of Woodenhill, and which is about two miles distant from the manse. The moor belongs partly to the Duke of Roxburghe and partly to the Duke of Buccleuch, but the road to it lies through the farm of Wooden, the property of the latter nobleman. There are no dissenting or seceding chapels in the parish. There are 153 families attending the church, and 69 attending meeting-houses in the vicinity. The parish church is well attended. The average number of communicants for some years past has amounted to about 312. The number of examinable persons that worship at the parish church amounts to upwards of 520. There is one Episcopalian family, which generally attends the Established Church.†

Education.—There are two parochial schools in the parish, the one at Eckford, and the other at Caverton mill, and both teachers have the legal emoluments. The teacher at Eckford has the maximum salary, L. 34, 4s. 4½d., with fees amounting at an average to L. 21 annually. The teacher at Caverton-mill has L. 17, 2s. 2½d. with fees amounting at an average to L. 17 annually, with the interest of L. 40 of mortified money. The former has, at an average, about 70 scholars, and the latter about 46. There is also a school at Cessford, which is upwards of two miles distant from the parish schools, and which is attended at an average by 38 scholars. With the exception of a free school-house he receives only his fees, which amount to about L. 18 annually. The people are in gene-

* Close to the manse on the glebe is Eckford brae, which was a place notable for tent-preaching in former times. Thither at particular seasons immense multitudes from the surrounding country were wont to resort. Here Boston and other eminent divines used to dispense to the people the bread of life.

† Close to the entry to the churchyard has been erected by the heritors a neat cottage for the beadle, along with a commodious stable for the benefit of the parishioners.

ral alive to the benefits of education, and it is believed that there are none in the parish above six years of age who cannot read. There is also a boarding-school for young ladies in this parish ; and the number that at present attend it amounts to upwards of 20. Here, they are instructed in all the usual branches of education, and to their moral and religious welfare every attention is paid. The establishment is kept by Misses Park and Spence, Upper Wooden. A Sabbath-school also exists in the parish, which, under the superintendence of the minister, is taught by the teacher of the first parish school, and several other well-disposed persons in the district.

Library.—In the parish, there are two branches of an itinerating library,—the one at Eckford, and the other at Caverton-mill. They are placed under the care of the parish teachers, and the books are lent to the people on their payment of a small sum quarterly. It is proposed, as soon as circumstances will permit, to establish a stationary library in the district.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Regular assessments in behalf of the poor have existed for many years in the parish, and these are levied in equal proportions on the proprietors and tenants. There are at present on the roll the names of 30 paupers, and these receive at an average about 2s. per week. Besides these, there are 4 who obtain interim supply, and who are not regarded as regular paupers. There is no mortified money ; and the collections at the church doors, as is almost always the case where assessments have been established, are exceedingly small. In this district, an aversion among the poor to seek parochial aid still, to a certain extent, exists. No sooner, however, is an application for charity made by an indigent individual before a meeting of the heritors and kirk-session, than the circumstances in which he is placed are at once made known to his neighbours, and the consequence is, that the sense of shame with which he once contemplated the idea of his wants, being exposed, soon comes for the most part to be diminished, if not altogether effaced. Now surely it were advisable, as far as possible, to remedy this evil ; and how can this more effectually be done, than by distributing, in as delicate a way as may be, a little aid to such needy individuals, as may shrink at the thought of being regarded as regular paupers. With the concurrence of all parties, this assistance might easily be afforded out of a fund placed at the disposal of some responsible persons in the district, named by heritors and kirk-sessions for that purpose. The advantages arising from this system are so very palpable, indeed, that

many parishes regularly act upon it, while there are others so indifferent to their own interest, as in a great measure to neglect it.

Inns.—There are no public-houses in this parish. For many years, there was an inn established in the immediate vicinity of the church, and it was justly regarded as a public nuisance, by every right thinking person in the community.

Fuel.—The ordinary fuel which is used here is coal, and which is brought from a distance of twenty miles. There are several depôts in the neighbourhood, where the supply of this useful article may be obtained at about the rate of 9d. per cwt. Wood is also frequently used.

May 1836.

PARISH OF SPROUSTON.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE CRAIG, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is of doubtful origin. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, gives two conjectures; one, that it may have been derived from *Sprous*, a proper name, and *Tun* a dwelling; the other, that *Sprus* in the Cornish dialect signifying “grain,” *Sprus-tun* may “denote the place fertile in grain.” This latter is a very appropriate derivation.

Extent, Boundaries.—In figure and extent the parish forms nearly a square of about 4 miles. The boundaries are, the Tweed on the north; the parish of Carham in Northumberland on the east; the parish of Linton on the south; the parishes of Eckford and Kelso on the west.

Topographical Appearances.—Two elevations of gradual ascent run across from north-east to south-west,—Hadden-rig through the centre, and Lempitlaw along the southern extremity. The vale between is in some places marshy, and, with the exception of a few acres on Hadden-rig, contains almost the only portion of the parish not under cultivation.

Soil.—The soil, along the river especially, is very productive, and is kept in a state of high cultivation. The Redden-haugh is famous for their extent, and for the sureness and abundance of their crops. Along the river, the soil consists of a rich loam, in

some places of considerable depth, upon a bed of sand. In the higher parts of the parish, the clayey substratum predominates. Hadden-rig above Kerchesters is the least productive part of the parish which is under cultivation. As you recede from this centre on all sides, but especially towards the river, the soil becomes warmer and more productive. This last remark regarding the soil is equally applicable to the climate.

Climate.—Comparatively bleak on Hadden-rig, the air is bracing on Lempitlaw, mild and salubrious along the river. The inhabitants, accordingly, are healthy and robust. The most prevalent distempers are fever, pulmonary complaints, and rheumatism. By this last, men and women, comparatively young, are frequently attacked, and rendered unfit for work during the rest of their lives. The cause of these distempers at once presents itself in the openness and dampness of the houses, which in most instances have originally been built with mud for mortar. Were proprietors of land to give more attention to the household comfort of those who live on their estates, they would in the end effect a considerable saving; as many, by longer health, would be enabled to provide longer for themselves and their families.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The earliest mention made of this parish in any authentic document is found in the foundation charter of Selkirk dated 1114. It is also mentioned in the charter given to Kelso Abbey in 1128, as one of the parishes which was held *in rectoria* by that institution. Redden and Hadden are also referred to as contributing to the same institution. These places were probably of greater importance formerly, than they are now. Redden is mentioned as a *towu* in connexion with Kelso, Sprouston, &c. in a writ of Protection granted by Henry VII. to the monastery of Kelso. The former importance of Hadden would appear from the permission granted to Bernard de Hawden by the Abbot of Kelso, to build a private chapel, where “he and his guests might hear divine service all the days of the year except on Christmas day, Easter day, and the feast of St Michael,” when they were obliged to attend the parish church.

Hadden-stank and Redden-burn are frequently spoken of, in border history, as the spots on which the English and Scotch Commissioners met for the fixing of boundaries, and for the settling of other territorial disputes.

About the year 1540, Hadden-rig was the scene of a conflict between the Scots and 3000 English horse, in which the latter were

defeated. This was shortly after followed by an incursion into Scotland, by a large army led by the Duke of Norfolk, which, marching up the Tweed, destroyed many towns and villages. Among the latter, was the village of Sprouston, then called Long-Sprouston, extending probably, with straggling cottages, as far west as Burnfoot, which tradition says it once did. Tradition reports besides, that hearths and foundations of houses and kitchen utensils have been ploughed up in the field above the Scurry rock; from which, it would appear that the village was formerly of greater extent on that side also.

The barony of Lempitlaw, which forms the southern division of the parish, was originally a separate parish, but was, at a time which has not been ascertained, united to that of Sprouston. Part of the ruins of its church were, till recently, to be seen in the churchyard, which still continues to be the burying-place for that part of the parish.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest session records now extant bear date from 1650 till 1656, and seem to have been pretty fully and regularly kept; but they are now in a very imperfect and decayed state. The records subsequent to that period, with the exception of one interval between 1656 and 1691, are almost entire.

Eminent Men.—The late Dr Andrew Thomson was ordained minister of this parish in 1802, and translated to Perth in 1808. It is said of him, that when the alarm of invasion by the French was raised by fire-beacons on the neighbouring heights, he headed a numerous body of volunteers from the parish, and led them to Kelso, the appointed rendezvous for this district. This is the more remarkable, as the parishioners were supposed to be much infected with French principles.

III.—POPULATION.

The population would appear from the last Statistical Account, and from other circumstances, to have continued very nearly the same in amount, for the last century. Its present amount is somewhat less than 1400. In the village of Sprouston it is 420; in that of Lempitlaw 130.

| | | | |
|--|-----|------------------------|-----|
| The average number of persons in the whole parish, | | | |
| Under 15 years, | 550 | Above 50 and under 70, | 129 |
| Above 15 and under 30, | 342 | 70, | 27 |
| 30 and under 50, | 352 | | |
| The number of bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years of age, | | | 14 |
| of widows and unmarried females above 45 years of age, | | | 48 |
| of families in the parish, | | | 295 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | | | 159 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | | | 60 |
| There are 3 fatuous, and 3 deaf and dumb in the parish. | | | |

During the last three years there have been not less than 6 illegitimate births in the parish.

The whole of the original parish of Sprouston is the property of the Duke of Roxburghe, with the exception of Hadden and Notilees, which are the property of Sir William Elliot of Stobbs and Wells; and the farm of Softlaw, which is the property of Sir George Douglas of Springwood. Lempitlaw barony is the property of the Duke of Buccleuch.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—All the male population, with the exception of 26 weavers, 16 masons, 10 wrights, 6 tailors, 4 smiths; and their apprentices, 1 cooper, 1 baker, and 1 fisherman, are employed in agriculture, either as hinds, carters, or day-labourers. A great proportion of the unmarried female population are employed in the fields and barn-yard.

| | |
|--|------|
| The number of acres standard imperial in the whole parish, | 8207 |
| under cultivation, | 7128 |
| under wood, principally fir, | 123 |
| lying waste, | 556 |
| of which capable of improvement. | 400 |

Rent of Land.—The average rental of arable land per acre, L. 1, 3s. 9d.; the average rent of grazing per ox, L. 4; per ewe, 11s.

Wages.—Day's-wage for labouring men, 1s. 6d.; women, 9d.; masons, 2s. 6d.

Live-Stock.—The Leicester is the breed of sheep usually fed.

Husbandry.—Five-shift, or alternate husbandry, is generally adopted in cultivating the soil. Improvements by draining and otherwise carried forward to an average extent. Nineteen and twenty-one years are the length of the lease commonly given. The buildings and enclosures on some of the farms are excellent, on others they might be better.

Quarries.—Sprouston, till of late, was celebrated for a freestone quarry, situated about half a mile from the village, and close by the turnpike road. Kelso bridge and Abbotsford were built of its stone. A new quarry has been opened about half a mile to the south of the old one, which produces an inferior stone, and is not considered very profitable in the working.

Fisheries.—There is a fishery for salmon, which, along with a ferry for the convenience of the parishioners, is at present let for L. 71, 15s.

Produce.—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The average produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or for domestic animals, may be estimated at | L. 16,537 |
| of potatoes and turnips, at | 4636 |
| of hay at | 1760 |
| of land in pasture at | 3743 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of bolls oats raised in the parish, | 9124. |
| wheat, | 3041 |
| barley and peas, | 3041 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets.—There is no market held in this parish; the nearest market-town, Kelso, being only two miles distant.

Villages.—Of these there are two,—Sprouston and Lempitlaw. The former is situated about 200 yards from the river, and is nearer to Kelso than to Carham parish by about a mile. It consists of 103 inhabited cottages, the school and schoolmaster's house just newly erected, and the manse. The church is in the centre of the village, and is built on what appears to be a gravelly eminence, of about twelve feet above the turnpike road. A spacious church-yard surrounds it, which, in 1814, was enclosed with an excellent stone wall five feet high. It had before that time, like many other country church-yards, been an open unenclosed space, intersected with numerous footpaths. The expense of the wall was defrayed by vacant stipend.

Lempitlaw consists of twenty-three inhabited cottages, and three one-storey farm-houses, and onsteads; one of the three being at the south-west, and two at the north-east end of the village.

Two turnpike roads run east and west across the parish; one through Sprouston and Carham to Cornhill, the other along Had-den-rig to Wooler. The parish roads are in good repair, are maintained by converted statute labour, and have lately in some places been greatly improved.

Ecclesiastical State.—Though the parish church is situated in the centre of the village of Sprouston, and therefore at one extremity of the parish, it cannot be said to be at a very inconvenient distance from any of the inhabitants. Mensilaws, an old farm-steading, now three cottages, at the extreme east, and one cottage at the extreme south-west of the parish, are between four and five miles distant. Lempitlaw district, Lurdenlaw, and Softlaw, which together contain about sixty families, are between three and four miles distance, and all the rest from one to two miles distance.

The present church was built in 1781, had the stairs to the gallery, which are inside, inclosed in 1822, and nothing now is wanting to render it a very comfortable place of worship but the flagging of the floor.

The number of families in the parish attending the chapels of Dissenters or Seceders is about 90.

The seats, 600 in number, are all free, but allocated to particular farms. Divine service is generally well attended. The average

number of communicants is 430. There is no meeting-house in the parish.

The present manse was built in 1777, is small, but at present in good repair.

The glebe, which lies between the manse and the river, contains 7 acres 18 poles. It is land of the very best quality, and of corresponding value. It has produced remarkably abundant crops.

The stipend is $14\frac{1}{2}$ chalders meal and barley, and L. 44 money.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish, the parochial and two side-schools. Of the latter, one is at Hadden, and was partially endowed by Lady Ker in the seventeenth century. The other is at Lempitlaw, and was endowed by the heritors in 1814, by appropriating for that purpose L. 100 vacant stipend. In the parish school the branches of education taught are the same as in other country schools. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 30. His emoluments from fees, which, per quarter, are, 2s. 6d. for reading; 3s. for reading and writing; 4s. for reading, writing, and arithmetic; 7s. 6d. for Latin, amount to about L. 40. He has at present no garden, but has from the heritors L. 2 in lieu thereof. In the two other schools, there is no Latin taught, but all the other branches of a common country education. At Hadden, the emoluments altogether scarcely exceed L. 15; at Lempitlaw, they may be about L. 30.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are supported by legal assessment. The number on the roll is 43; their average allowance L. 3, 14s. 9d. per annum. In some cases, the allowance granted by the heritors is increased by the session. Those who have been assisted in this way during the past year amount to 16, and the average assistance to each is 11s. per annum. The average annual amount of assessments for the poor is L. 160, 14s. 3d.; of church collections, L. 10, 9s. 5d.

It has not been observed that there is any indisposition on the part of the poor to apply for parochial relief. Applications have sometimes been made,—more, seemingly, from a desire to add to the little comforts already possessed, than to remove pressing want,—more from a preference of dependence on a public fund, than of dependence on children in narrow circumstances, who, it is to be feared, too often make their parents sensible of their dependence. Such applications when rejected, are uniformly attended with a feeling of experienced injustice on the part of the applicants. Vicinity to England may in some degree account for this.

March 1837.

PARISH OF ANCRUM.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JOHN PATON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—THIS parish was originally named *Ane-crumb*, from *Ane*, the ancient name of the river, and *Crumb*, a crook or bend, than which there could have been no name more descriptive of the situation of the village of Ancrum, which is placed on a rising ground on the south side of the Water of Ale, where the river takes a peculiar bend, and runs in a circuitous direction, till it discharges itself into the Teviot, about half a mile below. The parish is about six miles long and four broad, and is bounded on the south by the river Teviot, which divides it from the parishes of Jedburgh and Bedrule; on the east by Crailing and Roxburgh; on the north by Maxton and St Boswell's; and on the west by Minto and Lilliesleaf.

Topographical Appearances, Hydrography, Soil, &c.—The lower part of this parish is beautifully diversified, presenting every variety of irregular surface; and though it contains no hills, properly so called, it rises in some places into eminences of considerable height. On the Water of Ale especially, which is here and there o'erhung by steep and rugged rocks, partly of naked rock, and partly clothed in wood, there meets the eye a succession of scenery in the highest degree romantic and picturesque. Towards the upper extremity, however, the appearance of the parish becomes less interesting, from the general flatness of the ground, and the absence of any thing in the landscape peculiarly striking.

The only rivers are the two already mentioned,—the Teviot and the Ale,—the former being the southern boundary of the parish, and the latter intersecting it from west to east; and both of these streams, in addition to their acknowledged beauty, have been long celebrated as affording abundant sport for the angler.

The soil of this parish is extremely variable, including every variety, from the most barren to the most productive. Its average

quality, however, is good ; and on the banks of the Teviot, especially, it is not excelled, in respect of depth and richness, by that of any district of Roxburghshire.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices, &c.—This parish consists of the two united parishes of Longnewton and Ancrum, the former of which was annexed to the latter, towards the end of the seventeenth century. Of the old church of Longnewton there are now no remains, but its burying-ground is still made use of by some of the inhabitants of that western district.

The church of Ancrum anciently belonged to the Bishopric of Glasgow, of which University, indeed, many of the lands here still hold : and Longnewton was subject to the same Episcopal superintendence, though its revenues belonged to the monastery of Jedburgh. It appears from the documents referred to in “*Caledonia*,” that, upon the dissolution of the establishment of Lindisfern, Ancrum with Teviotdale was annexed to the see of Glasgow, and that Teviotdale was erected into a separate archdeaconry in 1238.*

At one period, there were two villages here, distinguished from each other by the names of Over and Nether Ancrum. The former stood on the north side of the Ale, in the immediate vicinity of Ancrum House, according to the usual precaution adopted in these feudal times, when juxtaposition and mutual protection were so essentially requisite between the Lord of the Manor and his vassals. Of this village, however, nothing now remains, except one or two dilapidated houses, bearing date 1592. But on the opposite side of the river, still stands the other village referred to, though most of it appears to be of a more modern erection. Both of these villages were burned to the ground during the destructive expeditions of Sir Ralph Evers in 1544, and the Earl of Hertford in 1545.

The most remarkable event of a historical nature connected with this parish is the battle of Ancrum Moor, which was fought about a mile and a-half to the north of the village ; but on the particulars of this battle it seems unnecessary to enter, as there are notices

* There are various documents relating to the parish of Ancrum in the Chartulary of Glasgow ; in particular, there is, in the early part of the thirteenth century, a curious charter by Radulphus Burnard of Faringdune (Farmington,) in which he grants “*Deo et beato Kentigerno et domino Waltero Epo., Glasguen et omnibus successoribus suis, in perpetuum focale de Peteriis meis de Faringdune ad domum suam de Alnecrumb,*” &c.

of it to be found in almost all the Scottish histories, the fullest account being given by Tytler. We may just mention, that it took place in the year 1545, and arose out of an inroad into Scotland by Sir Ralph Evers, and Sir Bryan Layton, for the purpose of taking possession of the territories of Teviotdale and the Merse, which had been conferred upon them by a grant from Henry VIII., and in which battle they were defeated with great loss. It may be added, that it was on this occasion that the gallant Earl of Angus (Bell the Cat) whose property in the Merse and Teviotdale was thus in such eminent peril, said of Evers and Layton, when he heard of their threatened incursion; "If they come to take seizin in my lands, I shall bear them witness to it, and perhaps write them an investiture with sharp pens and red ink."

Antiquities.—This parish presents prominently few objects of curiosity to the notice of the antiquary. But like the rest of the border country which saw the original inhabitants, the Romans, the Danes, and the Saxons, successively dispute its possession, it contains various scenes calculated to awaken a deep interest. Of this description are the ruins of the Maltan walls, which enclosed, at no distant period, an acre and a-half, within the area of which were visible various vaults and subterraneous passages, but of which there is now nothing to be seen except a small remnant of the outer wall.* According to tradition, this was once an establishment of the Knights of Malta, or Knights Hospitallers of St John; and though there is not in Keith or Spottiswoode, any notice of any religious house or hospital at Ancrum, we learn from various sources, that a religious establishment existed there as early as the reign of David I. But be the tradition right or wrong in reference to this building, it is evident, that the adjacent field has been used for the purpose of interment, human bones and entire skeletons having been frequently turned up by the spade and plough.

Near the Maltan walls, in the opposite grounds of Ancrum House, and for a considerable way up the Ale, are also to be seen various caves, amounting in all to fifteen, hewn out of the rocky banks of the river in the most inaccessible places. These caves have doubtless been intended and used for places of concealment in the times of the border wars. And many of them must have

* Since the above was written the remnant referred to has fallen to the ground, its decay having been doubtless hastened by the extraordinary severity of the past winter: so that nothing now remains of the "Maltan walls" but a heap of rubbish, and in all likelihood within a short period there will not be even a stone left to mark the site of this relic of antiquity.

been well adapted for the purpose, having not only been extremely difficult of discovery and access, but having been provided with fire-places and apertures in the roof to carry off the smoke, and commanding a plentiful supply of water. But the days are happily gone bye, when, from the predatory habits of the borderers, such hiding-places were rendered necessary; and, as a pleasing contrast to their original destination, it may be mentioned, that they were often resorted to for retirement and meditation, by the author of the "Seasons;" and one in particular, named "Thomson's Cave," is pointed out as his favourite retreat, and which is situated in the immediate vicinity of the manse, of which the poet was the frequent inmate during the incumbency of his friend Mr Cranston.—Maiden Lilliard's tomb may also be considered as an interesting relic of the olden time. At the battle of Ancrum Moor, above-mentioned, a Scottish woman of this name distinguished herself by her singular valour; such being her undaunted gallantry, that she continued to fight when covered with wounds, and even after both her limbs had been struck off. In honour of her memory, the spot where she fought and fell, and on which she was buried, is marked by a monument, the original of which has almost all been destroyed, but in whose stead a new one was lately erected, on which is inscribed the original epitaph, which runs thus:

Fair maiden Lilliard lies under this stane,
 Little was her stature but great was her fame;
 Upon the English loons she laid mony thumps,
 And when her legs were cuttit aff she fought upon her stumps.

There are likewise on the hill behind Ancrum House the remains of a British fort, consisting of three circular divisions or rows of large whinstone boulders; and at Harestanes, near Mounteviot, there stood within these fifty years the remains of a Druid circle, but which now, with the exception of one solitary stone, have all been removed. And in the centre of the village green, there stands an ancient cross, which one of the most learned architectural antiquaries of the present day thinks may be pronounced as old as the reign of Alexander III.

Mansion-Houses.—There are three principal residences in the parish: Ancrum House, the seat of Sir William Scott, Bart. a fine old baronial-looking mansion, standing in the midst of an extensive park, in which are to be seen some of the finest trees in the south of Scotland,* and whose picturesque effect is much increas-

* The following is the measurement of some of these trees, the measurement being taken several feet from the root:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| Beech, in circumference, | - | 13 feet. |
|--------------------------|---|----------|

ed by the additional beauty of a numerous herd of deer ; Chesters, the more modern residence of William Ogilvie, Esq. a large and handsome building, erected about forty years ago, and delightfully situated on the banks of the Teviot, at the mouth of a deep glen or dell, which stretches up behind the house, beautifully wooded on both sides ; and Kirklands, the elegant seat of John Richardson, Esq. occupying a most romantic position on a wooded height over the water of Ale, which, sheltered by the picturesque green knolls and grey rocks and woods of Ancrum, forms an appropriate addition to the striking and beautiful scene of the church and old bridge, and mill immediately below it. This house, which has been recently erected after a design by Blore of London, is of the Tudor style of architecture, and of the reign of Henry VII.

Eminent Men.—"Worthy famous Mr John Livingston," as he was fondly termed by his contemporaries, was, by an act of the General Assembly, settled minister of Ancrum in the year 1648. He was one of the three ministers sent over to King Charles II. in Holland in 1650, to make arrangements regarding the coming of that monarch to Scotland, and to treat with him in various important matters, both civil and religious, before his admission to the exercise of his government. In 1662, Mr Livingston, with many other ministers, was deposed for non-conformity, and having been also sentenced to banishment, he went over to Holland, where he occupied himself in his favourite pursuit, biblical literature, till his death, in August 1672, in the seventieth year of his age. For farther particulars of this remarkable man, "who was honoured by the Lord to be an instrument in the conversion of thousands," reference may be made to a manuscript of his in the Advocates' Library, and which is entitled, "A brief Historical Relation of the Life of John Livingston, Minister of the Gospel at Ancrum, with his memorable Characteristics, exemplified in the Lives of a considerable number of eminent Divines and private Christians in Scotland." His biography is contained in the *Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Scotsmen*, by Robert Chambers, and several particulars relating to him are to be found in Wodrow's and Kirkton's *Histories of the Church of Scotland*.

Land-owners.--Proprietors of land of upwards of L. 50 Scots valuation : Sir William Scott of Ancrum, Bart. ; Sir George Douglas

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| Lime, in circumference, | - | 27 feet |
| Weeping ash, do. | - | 20 feet 8 inches |
| Walnut, do. | - | 10 feet |
| Willow, do. | - | 13 do. 5 inches. |

These are merely specimens of a great many of a similar size.

of Springwood-Park, Bart. ; The Duke of Roxburghe; William Ogilvie, Esq. of Chesters; Earl of Minto; Honourable J. E. Elliot; Captain Brown of Park; John Sibbald, Esq. of Pinnacle; Major Pringle, of Rawflat; The Marquis of Lothian; John Richardson, Esq. of Kirklands; John Purvis, Esq. of Whitehouse.

III.—POPULATION.

The total amount of the population in this parish is 1454, of which about 550 are inhabitants of the village of Ancrum, and the remainder scattered throughout the other districts. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 gave 1066; and at the date of the last Statistical Account, there were 1146 souls. The increase of the population since these periods is to be attributed to the gradual improvements in agriculture, and the additional demand for farm-servants and labourers.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | 264 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 154 |
| in trade, manufactures or handicraft, | 61 |

Character and Habits of the People, &c.—The people of this parish are in general well-behaved, industrious, and contented with their situation and circumstances.* The cottages of the working-classes are cleanly and comfortable, their food, though plain, is sufficiently plentiful, and almost all of them have the means of gratifying that laudable desire, so characteristic of the peasantry of Scotland, of appearing at public worship on the Sabbath, respectably attired. But their several degrees of comfort vary, of course, according to the number of their family, the rate of their wages, and their habits of economy: and we have doubtless among us many instances of indigent old age still exerting its remaining strength in the praiseworthy pursuit of an independent though scanty livelihood, or wholly subsisting on private and parochial charity.

There is no species of amusement to which the parishioners are especially attached, with the exception of the game of “ball,” which is played only on one particular day of the year, in the month of February, the young men of one district being pitched against those of another. Similar games are also held annually, and about the same season, in some of the neighbouring parishes, and seem to create a considerable interest amongst the young men of the district.

* It must, however, be admitted, that this commendation cannot be applied to all,—there being not a few whose character is not only unworthy of praise, but whose reprobate conduct is much to be regretted, as well on their own account as on account of the morals and reputation of the parish generally.

The practice of killing salmon by the spear and torch is here carried on to a great extent, especially during close-time, and the numbers of foul fish that are annually taken in this way are very considerable. Poaching for game is also practised, though not to the same extent.

During the last three years there have been 20 illegitimate births; but in 8 of the cases, the parties were afterwards married.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The system of husbandry pursued here is in all respects similar to that of the surrounding districts. The five-shift rotation of cropping is that which is generally followed, and the common duration of leases is nineteen, and varying from that to fifteen years.

The rent of the arable land varies of course with the quality of the soil,—in some cases reaching as high as L. 4, and in others descending to 12s. per acre. The average rent, however, of all the arable land in the parish may be stated at L. 1, 3s. per acre. The real rent of the parish is L. 8698.

Rate of Wages.—A farm-servant's wage, every thing included, averages L. 28 per annum; that of a labourer 1s. 8d. per day in summer, and 1s. 6d. in winter; of a carpenter 2s., and of a mason 2s. 6d. per day. Single men residing in the farmer's house receive from L. 7 to L. 8, and women from L. 6 to L. 7 per annum, vic-tuals included.

Live-Stock.—The kind of live-stock generally reared in this parish is what is commonly called the short-horned breed of cattle, and the Leicester breed of sheep, or a cross between the Leicester and Cheviot breeds. And the rate of grazing is as follows: A cow, L. 3, 10s.; a three year old, L. 2, 10s.; a two year old, L. 2; and a year old, L. 1, 10s. each: and a ewe, L. 1 per annum.

| Acres under cultivation. | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| Number of acres in wheat, | - | 1080 |
| Barley, | - | 528 |
| Oats, | - | 1716 |
| Turnips, | - | 794 |
| Potatoes, | - | 107 |
| Hay, | - | 456 |
| Pasture, | - | 2052 |
| Fallow, | - | 602 |
| Peas and Beans, | - | 161 |
| Total under cultivation, | | 7496 acres. |
| In wood | | 820 acres. |

Quarries.—Of these there are two in the parish in constant operation, the one consisting of red, and the other of white free-stone, the former belonging to the Honourable John Elliott, and

the latter to Mr Ogilvie of Chesters, and both of these stones being of superior quality, there is a large demand for them throughout the surrounding district.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets—Means of Communication, &c.—Though the parish has no market-town within its own bounds, it is very favourably situated in this respect, there being no fewer than five markets in the neighbourhood for the sale of grain, and to all of which there is good and easy access. Jedburgh, however, which is about six miles from the centre of the parish, may be reckoned the market to which the parishioners principally resort. It is also the post-town. The principal village in the parish is that of Ancrum, the inhabitants of which are almost all earning their livelihood in the usual agricultural or other employments of a country population. Some of them, however, are more independent than others, from the possession of a few patrimonial acres of land, and which in various instances have descended from father to son, for several generations. Throughout the whole parish, the means of communication enjoyed by the inhabitants is remarkably good, it being intersected in all directions by roads leading to the neighbouring districts: and along its eastern extremity for several miles, runs the turnpike road from Edinburgh to Newcastle, along which, summer and winter, stage-coaches are passing and repassing twice a day.

Ecclesiastical State.—Although the church is only about a mile from the eastern extremity of the parish, it is conveniently situated for the great proportion of the population; and even of the parishioners in the western district, there are few who are above three, and none above four miles distant from it. It was built in 1762, was thoroughly repaired about five years ago, is a comfortable place of worship, and affords accommodation to about 520. The sittings belong exclusively to the heritors.

The manse was built in 1751, since which period it has received two additions, the last of which was made in 1833. It is now a comfortable and commodious house, and being delightfully situated on one of the steep banks of the Ale, and surrounded on all sides by magnificent woods, and every variety of hill and dale, is perhaps not surpassed, in respect of local beauty, by any manse in Scotland. The glebe contains about 10 acres of arable land, besides a considerable quantity of natural and other wood, and is worth L. 30 per annum.

The stipend consists of 16 chalders of victual, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There are 284 families in the parish, and of these there are, on an average, 160 families who attend the parish church. The remainder belong to one or other of the Dissenting meeting-houses in the neighbourhood. The average number of communicants in connection with the parish church is 470, and among these are to be found almost all the constant inhabitants of the parish, and the great majority of the tenants, so that the Dissenters consist principally of the fluctuating population of hinds and other farm-servants, a great proportion of whom change every year, and of whom, therefore, an accurate return cannot well be obtained. Upon the whole, however, it may be stated, that while there is no addition to the inhabitants of the parish, the number of its communicants in connection with the establishment is annually increasing.

The parish church is the only place of worship, and though it is generally well attended, yet it is much to be regretted that there are not a few of the parishioners whose attendance upon the public ordinances of religion is rare and irregular.

There are no Bible or Missionary Societies in the parish, but there is an annual collection in the church for missionary or other religious purposes, which yields on an average about L. 6.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish, the parochial, and two others. Of the latter, there is one which is endowed; having been formerly the parish school of Longnewton, where it is situated, and still retaining the provision which it had previously to the annexation of the parish of that name to the parish of Ancrum. Its endowment consists of L. 11 per annum, with a good house and garden, for the accommodation of the teacher; and its patronage is vested in the proprietor of the barony of Longnewton.

In all these schools the ordinary branches of education are taught, viz. English, English grammar, writing and arithmetic; in addition to which, in the parish school, instruction is given in Greek, Latin, French, geography and practical mathematics. For these latter branches, however, the demand is very limited.

The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, the legal quantity of garden ground, and a good house, consisting of four apartments. He also receives the annual interest arising from a sum of L. 50, which was left by a former resident in Ancrum, for behoof of the parish teacher, on the condition that he gives in-

struction in church music to some of the poorer children in the village.

The school fees are, 2s. per quarter for reading, with 6d. additional for writing and arithmetic; and 5s. for Latin; the other branches being charged in proportion, according to the agreement which may be entered into between the parents and teacher. The average number of scholars attending the parish school is about 90, and the amount of school fees is under L. 30 per annum.

The average number of scholars attending all the schools together is about 220, and to each of them there is attached a well-attended Sabbath school.

The parents in general seem anxious to avail themselves of these opportunities of getting their children instructed, and there are no instances in the parish of individuals upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read or write.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons on the poor's roll is about 30, and their aliment is obtained by regular assessments upon the heritors, for which purpose they meet quarterly and assess themselves, according to the amount of supply required. The amount of assessment may be stated at about L. 150 per annum, paupers receiving from 1s. to 4s. each per week, according to the necessity of the case.

In addition to this, however, there are also the ordinary Sabbath day collections, amounting on an average to L. 15 per annum, over which the heritors claim no control, and all of which, with a small exception required for other purposes, is annually distributed by the kirk-session in occasional allowances of coals, meal, or money, among paupers requiring more than their ordinary aliment, or as interim supply to necessitous persons not on the roll.

The poor in general are far from being backward in seeking parochial relief, and the feeling of degradation in reference to such applications is neither so prevalent nor so strong as it was in former times.

Inns.—There are 6 inns or public-houses in the parish. Of these, there are two in the village, and two within a quarter of a mile of it; and, there being no fairs or markets in the parish, there are at least three of these ale-houses which might well be dispensed with. Their influence on the morals and circumstances of those in their immediate neighbourhood, who are in the habit of frequenting them, is very injurious.

Fuel.—Amongst the lower classes the use of coals is limited,

the carriage being very expensive. The nearest coal-hill is thirty miles distant, and the driving alone costs 9s. for a single cart-load. Fire-wood, however, is abundant in the neighbourhood, and may be procured for a comparatively moderate price, at the numerous ~~sales~~ of that article, and being thus less expensive and more easy of access than coals, it is more generally made use of for fuel than the latter, especially among the labouring classes, and many of whom are also in the habit of laying up for this purpose furze, turf, or peat, all of which are to be had in the neighbourhood,—the two former on the common moor for the mere labour of cutting them,—and the latter from the adjoining districts at a very small cost. It may be added, that, for the convenience of the public in this district, there are several depots of coals within a few hours drive, and at one of which (Crailing) only four miles distant, there are coals to be had through the year at from 6d. to 8d. per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The only striking variations which are apparent between the present state of the parish, and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, consist in the improved system of agriculture, and in the additional extent of plantation. Here, as elsewhere, draining is now better understood, and more generally and efficiently practised than it formerly was, though much yet requires to be done in this respect.

The distance from lime, and the consequent heavy expense of obtaining it, remains yet, as it has hitherto been, the great obstacle to the reclaiming and improvement of the land in this neighbourhood. It may, however, be stated, that there is every prospect of this obstacle being so far obviated by the proposed formation of a railway from Berwick to Kelso, and from thence up the vale of the Teviot, and by the establishment of which, it is not to be doubted, many important advantages, besides the reduction of the price of lime, would accrue to this district of country.

April 1837.

PARISH OF OXNAM.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES WIGHT, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish was, for several centuries, written Oxenham, as appears from the chartularies and evidence from other sources. It was but recently changed to Oxnam, this being simply a popular abbreviation of the former name. The words *oxen* and *ham*, or *hamlet*, serve when combined to indicate its origin. For it may be inferred, that the chief village obtained its distinctive appellation, principally because it abounded with oxen, and partly also because it afforded protection to numerous herds of cattle, during the many hostile and predatory incursions of the southern borderers. And the name thus acquired by the village, so long held in repute for the advantages of its situation and the number of its inhabitants, was subsequently transferred to the parish at large. It is clear that the names of particular animals had, in process of time, become so completely identified with, as at length to be employed to designate, various places here, such as Stotfield, Swinside, and Hyndhope; and that several others too—of which Mossburnford and Bloodylaws are instances—bear names, either descriptive of certain remarkable localities that strike the view, or else expressive of some remote but memorable events of which they once formed the scene. These facts tend accordingly to corroborate the above statement.

Extent and Boundaries.—The utmost length of this parish is nearly 10 miles; its greatest breadth about 5 miles; and it contains 33 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Jedburgh; on the east by Hownam; on the south by Jedburgh and the county of Northumberland; and on the west by Jedburgh and Southdean. Its area may be described as an irregular oblong figure.

Topographical Appearances.—It may not be improper to observe, that the tops of the highest hills command a most magnifi-

cent and delightful prospect, having the mountainous chains of Cheviot, Moffat, and Lammermuir, together with the German Ocean, in the distance ; and at the same time the vast expanse of country comprehended within this grand circular outline, overspread with an endless diversity of highly beautiful and picturesque scenes. Of the large forests which once greatly decorated the landscape, a few vestiges only have withstood the desolating influence of time. Nevertheless, this parish, as to its general appearance, is peculiarly interesting, exhibiting many striking varieties of hill and dale, well subdivided enclosures, excellent pasturage, and numerous streams of water. A small section of the Cheviot range partly constitutes its southern boundary, and stretches towards the Carter Fell, which rises 2020 feet above the level of the sea. But to this, the most elevated summit of that section is somewhat inferior in height. To the northward of this bounding ridge, are situated various hills, chiefly of a conical form and smooth green aspect, but showing a less lofty elevation than the former. Again, other still humbler, yet towering eminences, appear in the same direction beyond these,—which present acclivities either partially cultivated, or clothed with delicate verdure, and form, therefore, an imposing and agreeable contrast with the scattered portions of heath and bent grass conspicuous on the interjacent flats. Besides, the fertile valley that divides the parish lengthwise, has its own undulating surface variously intersected by the continuous windings of the Oxnam water. And it may be observed, moreover, that the banks of the Jed bounding the western side, and presenting generally an abrupt and precipitous appearance, have their aspect pleasingly diversified by the termination of romantic dells in certain parts, and by narrow ravines ornamented with copse in others. Most of the banks, indeed, are richly adorned with natural wood, no less remarkable for the happily varied distribution, than for the beautiful form and foliage of its trees.

Climate and Diseases.—The whole parish, in common with the surrounding district, is liable to sudden as well as frequent variations of temperature. At times, the wind blows strongly from the east ; but it is found to proceed most frequently and with greatest violence from the west and south-west. Yet, at other times, it brings along with it, from the very same points, the mildest and most genial weather. The high-lying places, from their proximity to a mountainous region, are more exposed to heavy rains, and atmospheric changes, than the lower and more cultivated parts. This,

in general, is nevertheless justly esteemed a favourable climate. It is said, indeed, that owing to the purity, elasticity, and salubriousness of the air, common epidemic diseases exhibit a less inveterate character here, than in many other places. The most approved system of drainage, so long and extensively applied both to arable lands and to marshy and hilly pastures, has no doubt largely contributed to the amelioration of the climate; and thus served not merely to mitigate the severity, and prevent the recurrence of distempers—such as ague, rheumatism, fevers, and pulmonary complaints—that were formerly so prevalent; but also tended greatly to promote the healthfulness and longevity of the inhabitants.*

Springs and Rivers.—The waters of the spring situated near Fairloans, to which were ascribed qualities of a chalybeate nature, have utterly fallen into disuse. On being analyzed, they were found not to possess any mineral or medicinal virtues whatsoever. It may be worthy of notice, that between twenty and thirty perennial springs, in clustered order, and with margins of unfading freshness, combine to form the Oxnam, at the commencement of its course.

The Coquet water, which issues from the border mountains, skirts the southern extremity, to the extent of a mile,—then enters Northumberland, and after having attained considerable magnitude, empties into the British ocean betwixt Alnwick and Coquet isle. It is from the same alpine region that the Kale takes its rise. It crosses the upper end of the parish, pursues a circuitous direction by Hownam and Morebattle, and terminates its course of seventeen miles below the church of Eckford, by joining the Teviot. The sources of the Oxnam are nearly two miles distant from the English border. It takes its way at first through a pastoral district, then passing the village from which it borrowed its name, winds along occasionally prominent and ornamented margins, and after being largely augmented by tributary streamlets, also at length mingles its waters with the Teviot below Crailing, thereby closing its rapid course of twelve miles. The Jed flows over a rugged channel, and along the western boundary for two miles.

Geology and Mineralogy.—No coal has hitherto been discovered here, although certain local strata furnish strong indications of its presence. At Stotfield and Richard's Cleugh, steatite or soapstone occurs. Limestone is found near the Jed, but it is under a

* The average age of the enrolled poor is 63 for the last ten years. A female belonging to this parish died lately at the very advanced age of 104 years.

deep cover, and at a great distance from coal ; and hence the expense necessarily attending its preparation for agricultural and other purposes, renders it wholly unavailable at present. In the southern quarters, sandstone of the coal formation abounds, between which and the corresponding strata of the Carter, an intimate connection may be found to subsist. What has been worked is of a durable quality and white colour ; but it has been employed for building, only to a very limited extent. The same parts of the parish are traversed by a great whinstone dike, running in a lineal direction from east to west. It is upwards of thirty feet wide, and extends to a considerable distance on both sides of the border. On the one side, it is said to be perceptible in the environs of Milton ; at any rate, it may be observed passing the Kink, Tofts, Brundinlaws, Phaap, and the top of the hill opposite upper Hyndhope ; and on the other, it goes onward to Blindburn, Carlecroft, Carshope, Linshiels, Rothburry, and near the mouth of the Coquet. In the lower situations, greywacke prevails, having seams of slate clay, or dent, not unfrequently interposed between the strata, which run from north-east to south-west ; and dip from south to north at an angle of from 40 to 60 degrees. It is rock of the trap formation, of which the hills chiefly consist. Hence the extensive distribution of clay porphyry, which affords excellent metal for roads, those parts of it being commonly used that are most superficial, and in which the process of disintegration has partially taken place. It is copiously interspersed with quartz veins, and possesses cavities lined with finely crystallized incrustations of the same substance. The greenstone sometimes observed protruding from rock of this species may probably be portions of dikes penetrating the general mass. But the hills eastward of Swinside are evidently intersected by numerous veins of jasper. Of these, five have been laid open. One of the hills has a quarry on its brow, in which a vein is exposed of from three to twelve inches in thickness, adhering to the perpendicular face of the rock, which has been cleared to a large extent. There is one of a finer quality on the east side of the adjoining summit. But another still richer and of ampler dimensions was lately detected, when cutting a drain on the contiguous farm of Middlesknows. Here different kinds of agate, as well as sundry varieties of jasper, from which beautiful and valuable specimens might be selected, are found either intermixed with the soil, or cast loosely upon the channel of the Oxnam water.

Soil.—The soil exhibits widely different qualities in different places. The most predominating kinds are of a loamy, clayey, and gravelly nature; but of these many intermediate varieties and combinations present themselves. The soil is deposited upon gravel in many parts; it is found, in others, resting upon rock of the kinds specified above: while, in some rather elevated situations, the substratum consists of bluish clay, so very tenacious and retentive as to be completely impervious to water. It may also be stated, that, a substance, vulgarly called moorband, occurs occasionally imbedded in the subsoil. Where the soil itself is scanty, and consists of dark-coloured vegetable matter, it often assumes the real form and appearance of bog-iron ore, is found in detached portions, and is of an exceedingly hard texture. But when met with in clayey ground, it is of a reddish or light-brown-colour, shows a thinner and more extended stratum, and more readily suffers decomposition by exposure to the influence of the sun and air. The iron it contains becoming oxidized, causes it gradually to dissolve into an earthy powder. It varies from one to six inches in thickness, proves frequently injurious to vegetation, and being impenetrable by the roots of trees, forces them to push outward in a radial direction along its surface. There is great abundance of moss, which is scarcely used for fuel, except in the upland farms, and never as manure. By means of thorough draining, levelling, and top-dressing, Scraesburgh moss, which was formerly a watery waste, has been reclaimed, and now produces luxuriant crops of grass.

Zoology.—No rare species of birds is found here. We have the woodcock, fieldfare, curlew, plover, and kingfisher. The grounds are amply replenished with black-cock and grouse, as well as other kinds of game. For some seasons, the quantities were considerably diminished, chiefly in consequence of the depredations committed by English poachers. But they were lately checked in their lawless practices by the spirited exertions of the Border Association for the protection of game; for a banded number of about twenty of these bold sporting adventurers were unexpectedly apprehended, and subjected to punishment.

Not a few animals, such as the hind, wild boar, and others, have entirely disappeared, with the once extensive forests which afforded them subsistence and shelter. Here sheep of the Cheviot breed are reared with peculiar care. They are highly prized on account of their size, symmetry, wool, and other qualities, for which they are remarkable. In proof of this, it may be stated, that the best

lot of rams exhibited before the annual meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, lately held at Kelso, procured for its owner, residing at Swinside, the highest premium awarded for stock of that particular class.

All the streams abound with excellent trout. Also salmon have been taken from the Oxnam here, but by such persons chiefly as have recourse to the illicit expedient of fishing with spears by torch light. The crop of beans in 1833 was irretrievably damaged by the depredations of a dingy-coloured insect. These, settling in myriads on the stalks, pods, and leaves, either materially injured, or wholly extinguished the principle of vegetation, and accordingly the result was a general failure. No means were employed for their destruction. The black caterpillar, after an interval of thirty years, again assailed the turnip crop last summer; and, but for the very careful and expensive picking by the hand, would have entirely consumed it. But for many successive seasons, this kind of crop has been regularly invaded by insects of a different species. These fix upon the root commonly of the young plant, and the canker thereby produced, causes it to put forth new ones, bearing some fancied resemblance to fingers and toes; and to this circumstance the disease owes its name. The plant when attacked either withers and dies, or else exists only in a decayed and mutilated state. No part of the parish is wholly exempted from its ravages; but these are supposed to be materially checked and diminished by the unsparing use of lime. It has been ascertained by repeated experiments, however, that neither liming copiously, nor yet soil entirely new, will completely prevent the pestilential inroads which it makes. This disease has hitherto, indeed, set at defiance the most skilful efforts, either to discover a remedy or to detect its cause. The ruta бага, or Swedish turnip, appears most effectually to resist its virulence, and is therefore cultivated to a much greater extent than it was formerly wont to be done.

Botany.—As no new or unknown varieties of plants have been discovered in the parish, the names of such only as are more rarely to be met with are here given: *Drosera rotundifolia*, round-leaved sun-dew; *Parnassia palustris*, common grass of Parnassus; *Sedum villosum*, hairy stonecrop; *Saxifraga granulata*, white meadow saxifrage; *Potentilla argentea*, hoary cinquefoil; *Trifolium ochroleucum*, sulphur-coloured trefoil; *Polygonum amphibium*, amphibious persicaria; *Digitalis purpurea et alba*, purple and white

foxglove; *Rubus chamaemorus*, cloudberry; *Genista anglica*, needle-green-weed, or petty whin.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The manor of Oxenham was enjoyed by Gaufred de Percy when the abbey of Jedburgh was founded. He granted to the abbot two carucates of land, and two bovates, lying adjacent to the church, with common of pasture and common of fuel belonging to the village. This grant, and also the right to common pasture on the lands of Newbigging, were confirmed by Malcolm IV. and William the Lyon. The forfeiture of Sir Robert Colvill enabled David II. to grant the barony of Oxenham, with other lands, to Sir Duncan Wallace, and the Countess of Carrick, his spouse. This parish, set free by the Reformation from a rigorous ecclesiastical domination, acquired its independence.

It may be mentioned, that the Rev. Thomas Boston, who relinquished his parochial charge here, was the first pastor who presided over a congregation of Relief Seceders in Jedburgh. Not a few of his former flock continued to attend on his public ministrations in that place.

Land-owners.—There are in all eight land-owners, whose designations, as arranged according to their valued-rents, are here given: The Most Noble the Marquis of Lothian; His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe; Charles B. Scott, Esq. of Woll; William O. Rutherford, Esq. of Edgerston; John Scott, Esq. of Riccalton; John Stavert, Esq. of Cunzierton; Major Archibald Oliver of Bush; and Mrs Isabella Scott of Fala.

Registers.—It appears that the earliest insertion in the parochial register was in 1700, and that entries were regularly made during the subsequent ten years; but that since that period it has been less accurately kept.

Antiquities.—The ruins of an old chapel at Plenderleath may still be seen, but its cemetery has ceased to be occupied as a place of interment. There is a Druidical circle, sixteen yards in diameter, and occupying an elevated position, which remains pretty entire. At no great distance, there are the vestiges of another of larger dimensions, but in a less perfect state of preservation. The stones of which they are composed, being dark compact greenstone, interspersed with numerous and minute crystals of augite, may therefore be identified with that prominent and corresponding rock found in their neighbourhood. Several old camps, of a circular form, are to be met with here. The one occupying the

height southward of Bloodylaws is the most conspicuous and important. On the hill at Cunzierton, also, the outlines of a strongly fortified British station may be clearly traced. It consists of a large rampart, with double trenches surrounding the level area on the summit; and about fifty yards lower, where the ascent is easiest, an additional mound of defence is likewise apparent. Besides, there are the remains of a Roman encampment most distinctly visible upon a somewhat commanding eminence called Pennymuir. It is of a quadrangular figure, with slightly rounded corners; but it has this peculiarity of construction, that the vallum and fossa are carried outward at right angles on the east side, where the ground is dry and level, so as to include an additional oblong space of no small extent. The traverses covering the gates or entrances, as well as the ramparts and entrenchments, are still remarkably well defined, except only where the narrow extremity has been levelled by the plough, and where another portion of them has been converted into a turf fence. The beauty and completeness of the camp are unhappily marred by these encroachments. Its superficial area is 32 acres.

Close to this ancient encampment, near the two Druidical circles, and not far from the important fortification noticed above, there runs along the north-east boundary of the parish, for about six miles, the great middle Roman road into North Britain, usually denominated the Watling Street. Where it is conducted over dry sloping ground, its originally raised and rounded appearance is still very entire. It is supposed to have been regularly paved, which seems to be confirmed by stones larger than the rest being found inserted closely and in a continued line along the middle of it, by the numbers protruding through the grass which covers its surface, and by the great quantity, of mixed sizes, observable where it passes over ground that is marshy or moist. It has been traced from Carriden on the Frith of Forth, through the Lothians, Lauderdale, St Boswell's Green, and onward to Jedfoot bridge, the camp at Pennymuir, and Woden-Law; and then crossing the Border, it goes by Chewgreen, Riechester, Corebridge, and near Halifax to Manchester, and from thence to Norwich, Chester, and Aber, where it joins the great southern branch of Watling Street. Many pits are perceptible along both sides of this ancient causeway, varying in their distances from each other, from which unquestionably the materials for its construction were taken. Some of them containing water are overgrown with rushes; while others,

now almost obliterated, are covered with spongy sod, or a rich sward of grass. This spacious road, still kept open, is but little frequented except for driving cattle and sheep into England.

This district, so long converted by the licentious borderers into the theatre of incessant feuds, reciprocal depredations, and violent sanguinary conflicts, was once numerous interspersed with castellated edifices, or baronial forts. Of these the most distinguished were Dolphiston, Mossburnford, and the Crag Tower. The first is plausibly conjectured to have been built by one Dolphus, and to have received from him its name. It was held, for a considerable period, by the family of Anslie, who greatly singalized themselves in the border warfare. On the principal gateway were inscribed the words Radolph de Anslie. The walls, of which little more than the foundation remains, were from 8 to 10 feet in thickness, and had several vaulted apertures in the middle of them, originally intended either for concealment or repose; but so large as to admit of their being ultimately converted by farmers into receptacles for ladders, and other agricultural implements. They were of such massive and durable construction, indeed, as rendered their demolition a matter of very difficult accomplishment. * A little to the south, there is a plot of grass twenty-two yards square, long unbroken by the plough or spade, which is alleged to have formerly been furnished with a watch-tower. The next mentioned structure, though far inferior in strength, was nevertheless longer preserved entire; for its being inhabited consists with the recollection of persons now alive. The site of the third was upon the eastern bank of the Oxnam, below the village, and was strongly fortified, both by nature, and by the skilful contrivances of art. It was built on a bold rocky eminence, with projecting battlements, and surrounded on three sides by water. In the interior of it, there was a deeply-sunk pit, which is said to have communicated with the passing stream, from which its inmates and defenders, when closely besieged, could readily supply themselves. It had, besides, a strong wall of defence on the accessible

* A tradition is still current, that a fairy or brownie assisted the people there in thrashing their corn in olden times, and that in token of their gratitude for his services, an article of dress was placed for his acceptance in the scene of his nocturnal labours; but that he, hurt and offended at the very offer of remuneration of any sort, quitted the premises for ever, and on doing so, is said to have uttered his regret in these lines.

Sin ye've gien me a harden ramp,†
Nae mair o' your corn I wull tramp.

Brownie's gotten a cloak and hood,
But brownie 'll do nae mair good.

† A coarse linen shirt.

side, which served to inclose a spacious outer court, and within which the cattle in the vicinity, being shut up, might be secured against those daring attempts at spoliation and rapine, commonly executed by freebooters under the cover of night. A few years only have elapsed since these remains of antiquity were nearly all removed, with a view to subserve and facilitate the purposes of modern improvement; and hence it may be truly said of these ancient but dilapidated fortalices, no less than of the mirthful festivities, the warlike preparations, and the boasted chivalrous exploits of which they were by turns the scene, that every vestige almost has alike passed away from the remembrance and the sight of man.

One fact has been rescued from the general oblivion, however, connected with Henwood, in the immediate vicinity of the Crag Tower. Into its deep and impervious fastnesses, which covered extensively the western banks of the Oxnam and the grounds adjacent, the border chiefs, accompanied by their feudal and military retainers, were wont to betake themselves, when their dangers were pressing and great; and hence an occurrence, exceedingly frequent and alarming, gave rise to the memorable war-cry,—a Henwoody! which made one and all grow fierce, seize the readiest weapon, and hasten eagerly for protection to the forest, of all others the most safely commodious place, both as a rendezvous and refuge for the inhabitants. By this watch-word, too often the signal for indiscriminate burning, devastation, and slaughter, no less than by the many ruins of a dignified but gloomy cast, with which this frontier parish abounded, we are sadly reminded of the troubles and rude habits so prevalent in that age; and are led forcibly to contrast these with the growing civilization and peaceful occupations that characterize the present times.

To the west of Henwood, there appears a rising ground called Gallala Know, which the voice of tradition declares to have been the place appropriated for the execution of criminals during the Border wars. It is now enclosed and planted with trees. There is likewise a seemingly artificial tumulus, beautifully situated in the bosom of a sort of natural amphitheatre hard by the Crag Tower. It is a place, which, in bygone times, might have probably been occupied for the public administration of justice to the lieges.

An iron helmet, imbedded in the ground near Cappuck, was discovered about sixty years ago; but we are unable to state into whose hands it has now fallen. Also, at Stotfield there was found lately a large sized and elegantly formed pot or kettle, of the kind

used for culinary purposes by the Romans, during their frequent encampments. It seems to consist of an alloy of copper, bears marks of the mould in which it was cast, and is of a capacity to contain one and a-half gallon. It is at present in the possession of the parochial clergyman. Besides, a shilling of Robert Bruce and two sixpences of Queen Anne ~~were found at Newbigging~~, and other relics of antiquity, which we forbear particularly to notice.

III.—POPULATION.

The ancient population of this parish cannot be ascertained.

But in 1755 the number was 760
 In 1801 it did not exceed 688
 And in 1831 it amounted only to 676, comprising 348 males and 328 females.

This gradual decrease must be ascribed to the early junction of small farms, and to the subsequent monopoly of larger ones. At present, six large farms are held by non-resident tenants. The effect of this system has been, not so much, indeed, to deteriorate the condition, as to reduce the number of inhabitants. Every village is abolished, owing to the removal of all dwellings not deemed necessary for accommodating the families of tradesmen and farm-servants.

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| The yearly average of births for the last seven years, is | - | 9 |
| of deaths, | - | 6 |
| of marriages, | - | 3 |
| The average number of persons under 15 years of age is | - | 261 |
| betwixt 15 and 30 | - | 195 |
| 30 and 50 | - | 123 |
| 50 and 70 | - | 82 |
| upwards of 70 | - | 15 |

No landed proprietor resides within the bounds of the parish, and the smallest estate is above L. 150 of yearly value.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The number of bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years of age is | 8 |
| of unmarried women and widows upwards of 45 years, | 25 |
| of families, | 121 |
| And the average number of children in each, | 3 |
| Number of families employed in agriculture, | 69 |
| trade and handicraft, | 17 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—It is accurately estimated that 3480 acres are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, and that 16,990 acres, exclusive of plantations, remain unbroken and constantly in pasture. But it is evident from traces of the plough being still observable on many of the hilly grounds, that these must at a former period have been far more extensively under cultivation than at present. In the meantime, however, they cannot be made to undergo even occasional tillage with profit, and are kept, therefore, in permanent pasture.

Wood.—The quantity of natural wood is about 50 acres ; and that of old and young plantations is 600 acres. The latter consist of the common kinds of forest trees ; but in point of numbers the larch and Scotch fir greatly predominate. What were planted lately, in addition to those which have stood for several years, are regularly thinned, pruned, and under excellent management, and consequently they are all in a vigorous and thriving state. A few of the aged ash, elm, and other deciduous forest-trees of a large size still remain to attest, by their scattered and solitary appearance, the wide desolation produced by the hand of time.

Rent.—The average rent of cultivated land is about 16s. 6d. per acre. The charge for the annual keep of a cow is L. 5, 10s. ; of a three year old, L. 4 ; of a two year old, L. 3, 7s. ; and of a one year old, L. 2, 10s., all without turnips, but including a little hay in spring. The charge per annum for a full-grown sheep of the Leicester breed is L. 1, and for a young one, 12s., both getting a proportion of turnips in spring, and being otherwise pastured for the rest of the year. A Cheviot ewe pastured for the year is 8s. and of a young sheep, with a few turnips, 5s. for the same period.

Breeds of Stock.—The sheep are almost exclusively of the Cheviot breed ; though, in some richer and more sheltered situations, the Leicester breed is preferred. The strictest attention has long been paid to the breeding and management of the former. Hence the method most commonly adopted for its improvement is this : a small number of the best and finest woolled ewes is selected from the general stock, to which valuable rams, sometimes procured from the adjoining English counties, and sometimes purchased from, or exchanged with, a neighbouring farmer, are admitted at the proper season ; and from their produce, rams of the first and most approved quality are afterwards chosen. Some manage otherwise, for they buy Cheviot lambs, feed them upon turnips during winter, procure Leicester rams at the proper time, and at length dispose of the whole crop of half-bred lambs, and, subsequently, the ewes also, when ready for market. Others again adopt still different methods, according to circumstances.

The kind of cattle most usually reared is that of the short-horned breed. No small attention is generally paid to the improvement of it. The horses are of a moderate height, but powerful and active.

Husbandry.—The five-shift rotation is now almost universally

prevalent. The value of many farms has been much enhanced, by means of substantial fences, abundant draining, the liberal and extensive application of lime, and more lately of bone manure too, which contributes to unfold the energies of the soil in a wonderful manner. In some parts, no trivial advantage has likewise been gained by forming embankments, though only upon a limited scale. The duration of leases commonly extends to nineteen years, which is held to be truly beneficial, both for the landlord and the occupying tenant. It tends to enrich the estate of the former, just because it admits of the latter being reimbursed for whatever expenses might be unavoidably incurred in effecting judicious and important improvements. Most of the farm-buildings are commodious and handsome, and the state of enclosures is good.

Recent Improvements.—Large additional plantations, and likewise numerous subdivisions and enclosures, have recently been formed, especially by the Marquis of Lothian, whose excellent and liberally devised plans, when fully carried into execution, will greatly contribute both to beautify and enrich his baronial estates in this quarter. Of late, fences of furze, or whin, have been extensively brought into use. They succeed admirably well on moorish or barren soils, where thorns would never grow; and when properly dressed, besides being ornamental to the farm, are highly beneficial to the farmer. The roads running through the parish in various directions extend to about thirty miles. All the other roads, as well as the main line, which leads most directly from Kelso to the Carter, are kept in good repair. They are upheld by funds arising from the conversion of statute labour. The rate of assessment has seldom exceeded L. 1 for every hundred pounds Scots. It may be added, that the facilities of internal communication were happily increased by means of three stone bridges lately built.

Amount of raw produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, will be nearly as follows:

| | | | |
|--|---------|----|---|
| Grain of all kinds, 7610 bolls, | L. 9192 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips and potatoes, 652 acres, | 2375 | 0 | 0 |
| Clover and meadow hay, 847 do. | 2456 | 6 | 0 |
| Pastures, 18460 do. | 5999 | 10 | 0 |
| Gardens and orchards, | 53 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood felled, and thinnings of plantations, | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Quarries, | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Rye-grass and turnip seed, | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous produce, | 110 | 0 | 0 |

L. 20297 16 0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns—Means of Communication.—The distance from

Oxnam to Jedburgh, the nearest market-town, is four miles. Nearly the whole of the disposable produce is sold there, the rest being sold at Kelso or Hawick, where also there are weekly markets, of which one is ten and the other fourteen miles distant. A daily coach from Edinburgh to Newcastle passes through it, and another runs from it to Edinburgh, and returns every alternate day. No fewer than ten persons, provided either with horses and carts, or donkeys, prosecute a sort of retail trade in bread, groceries, and other articles. Numbers of the gipsy tribe frequent this neighbourhood, especially during the months of summer. As they are less liable to be molested on the Roman road than other places, there, accordingly, betwixt thirty and forty have been observed to encamp for days together. Besoms, wicker baskets, and earthen-ware, are what they usually offer for sale.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was built in 1738, and is in a good state of repair, but is inconveniently situated for families dwelling in the more remote parts. To it belong four communion cups handsomely formed of silver, of which two were a donation from one individual, and two from another. Each pair has inscribed upon it respectively the date of its presentation, and the name of the donor. The church is capable of accommodating 258 sitters. All the sittings are free, no pecuniary charge whatever having hitherto been made for them.

The manse was rebuilt in 1831, on a more approved and advantageous site. The extent of the glebe is from 12 to 13 acres, and its yearly value about L. 1, 4s. per acre. The amount of stipend, exclusive of L. 8, 9s. 8d. of vicarage teind tack-duty, is 120 bolls * oatmeal; and 87 quarters, 3 bushels, one-half quart barley.

In general, divine service in the parish church is well attended. About 120 may be the average number of communicants. Many of the population have been long connected with the different dissenting congregations in Jedburgh. The sum of L. 9 may be the average amount of church collections annually for religious and charitable objects. The number of Dissenters varies every year, as they are chiefly of the class of farm-servants, many of whom yearly change places.

Education.—In the parish school, only the common branches of education are taught. Forty may be the average number of scholars attending it. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 25, 13s.

* Each boll consisting of ten stones.

4d. and the amount of school-fees L. 12. He has the legal accommodation, somewhat more than an acre of land adjoining his house, and L. 4, 3s. 4d. of money, arising from a fund mortified by Lady Yester, as a remuneration and encouragement for teaching poor children. The fees are, for reading, 2s. per quarter; for reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; and for arithmetic, 3s., more being charged, however, for the higher branches. There are none who cannot read, and few who cannot write likewise, at the age of seven years. The distance of several families from the parish school renders it extremely desirable that an additional one should be erected, and a suitable teacher appointed by the heritors. A library connected with the Sabbath school has been attended with great benefit.

Savings Bank.—The nearest Saving bank is at Jedburgh, and the persons by whom investments are generally made in it are tradesmen and farm-servants.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—One cottage, called the Alms-house, still remains, which Lady Yester, according to her letters of mortification dated 4th November 1630, and 14th March 1638, bequeathed for behoof of the poor. She likewise mortified L. 1000 Scots, the annual rent of which, L. 4, 3s. 4d., beside the weekly collections, is distributed in small proportions, among such indigent individuals as have not been permanently admitted to the benefit of an assessment. The average number of poor on the roll for the last ten years is 18, and the average allowance to each is L. 4, 8s. 8½d. per year. Such is the decrease in their number, however, that the sum allotted for their supply is at present one-third part less than it had been for a long period. The mode of regular assessment for the maintenance of the poor has been in operation here for a considerable number of years. It has had the effect, certainly, of lessening the shame and degradation naturally experienced by needy applicants, and which at first were felt so strongly, as, in various instances, to prevent an application being made. As it is, however, a careful and judicious distribution of the funds will best insure the satisfaction of all parties.

Fairs.—Two fairs are annually held at Pennymuir. One was established 15th October 1830, and the other in the month of August thereafter. The purpose of their establishment was the more convenient disposal of sheep and lambs, of which about 1400 are presented for sale at each market. Also on the 25th day of

March, a tryst or market for hiring shepherds is held at the same place.

Alehouse.—The only alehouse in the parish was lately built for the accommodation of persons attending these fairs. Being situated in a remote and thinly peopled district, it proves less injurious than it would otherwise do.

Fuel.—At a former period peat and turf, which were had in abundance, were the only fuel sought after. On some of the upland farms they are still in use. But coal is now the fuel chiefly used here. That of the purest quality is procured from Tarretburn, in the county of Northumberland. It is carried a distance of twenty-two miles, and is commonly sold at 10d. per cwt. No small quantity, besides, is brought from other Northumbrian collieries bordering on the east coast. But a somewhat higher price is demanded for it, owing especially to the distance being greater than to the southern pits.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of agriculture in this parish has greatly advanced since the publication of the former Statistical Account. Yet it is an indubitable fact, that a large proportion of the lands under tillage would become still more productive, and also that the coarse and swampy pastures would be substantially improved, by draining them more thoroughly, and to a much greater extent. The more copious application of lime and bone manure to the soil would unquestionably enable the farmer to raise not only turnips, but every other kind of crop, in richer abundance. At the same time, it may be remarked, that the very fertile and highly cultivated grounds cannot, even under the present excellent system of husbandry, be brought to a state of much greater improvement. Where shelter is specially wanted, forest trees might, with signal advantage, be planted on an extended scale. A few years hence, the young thriving plantations, and the many enclosures furnished with hedgerows, will successfully impart a much more clothed and ornamented appearance to the district.

It may be observed also, that the circumstance of so many of the farms being held by non-resident tenants, as well as the unsparing suppression of cottages, has necessarily diminished the number of industrious and respectable inhabitants. However, very few of the working classes are wholly disabled for profitable exertion, either by disease or the infirmities of old age. The people generally lead sober and active lives, show a commendable atten-

tion to cleanliness and comfort, give education to their children corresponding to their means, and manifest a becoming zeal for the cultivation of religious knowledge and moral habits.

April 1837.

PARISH OF ASHKIRK.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. G. J. HAMILTON, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE origin of the name of this parish is obviously Anglo-Saxon, and we find it, in the records of the twelfth century, spelt *Aschechyre* and *Aschechirk*; and in more modern times, we find Askirk, and Ashkirk, the present name. From the large quantity of ash trees with which the parish abounded, a considerable number of which still surround the churchyard, there can be no doubt regarding the origin of the name. Two-thirds of the parish lie in Roxburgh, and the other in Selkirkshire. It is about 7 miles in length, and about $3\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth. It is bounded on the north by Selkirk, west by Yarrow, south by Robertson and Wilton, east by Minto and Lilliesleaf.

Topographical Appearances.—This parish presents few features worthy of detail. It is entirely of a hilly character, though there are portions of level land on the banks of the Ale, in openings of the narrow valley through which that river flows.

Climate.—The climate must be regarded as rather damp and cold, from the great prevalence of W. and S. W. winds, and that a part of the parish is peculiarly exposed to the E. N. E., and S. E. winds. But the climate has been much improved by the extent to which draining and plantations have been carried, and both might yet be very much extended, with great advantage to both landlords and tenants. The health of the inhabitants may be stated as being fully equal to that of the surrounding district. There is a tombstone in the churchyard, bearing to be that a man of the name of Coltherd, and his wife, who both died at the advanced age of

* Drawn up by Walter Tod, Esq. Langhope. The minister, Mr Hamilton, died since this article was drawn up.

one hundred and two. At present there are several persons above eighty, and there are two men in their ninety-second year. The chief diseases that prevail in the parish are, fevers, consumption, rheumatism, catarrh, and that now universal complaint, termed dyspepsia, or indigestion, which attacks all ages, sexes, and conditions. Concerning the causes of this wide spread malady, this is not the place to speculate.*

Meteorology.—There has been no accurate register of the weather kept in the parish, even to shew the average range of the thermometer and barometer. But this is the less to be regretted, as there will be found some valuable tables and observations, with the various prognostics of the weather, in the very full and able report of the parish of Yarrow, by the Rev. James Russell. And as the parishes of Ashkirk and Yarrow lie contiguous, and are therefore subject to the operation of the same causes that determine the state of the weather, the results obtained in the one parish will, with very slight modifications, apply to the other.

Hydrography, Springs.—The greater number of the springs in the parish are perennial. Their general temperature is about 45°. Not a few of these springs are obviously impregnated with various mineral substances, and some of them are regarded by some of the inhabitants as possessing medicinal virtues, but none of them have ever been carefully analyzed.

Lochs.—There were formerly a great many lochs in this parish, but now only those of Essenside, Sheilswood, Headshaw, and Ashkirk are of any considerable extent. The first is the joint property of the Earl of Minto, and of Archibald Cochrane, Esq. of Ashkirk, measuring about 20 acres. The second and third belong to the Earl of Minto, and the last to Archibald Cochrane, Esq. of Ashkirk. All these lochs contain excellent marl, and some of them yield trout, perch, and pike. What is now called Synton moss was at one time a considerable lake, but has been completely drained, in order to obtain the marl and peat with which it abounds, both of which are of excellent quality. There are four marl mosses on the estate of Synton, which have all been drained by the present proprietor, the

* But would the dyspeptics of the age take an advice, which is here offered, without a fee, and which is, that they would find their stomachs very much relieved and improved by putting a great deal less in them. But there is not much good to be expected by advice,—and the thing will go on, unless some merciful Member of Parliament shall get the digestive organs placed under the same protection as the factory children,—viz. that they shall not be oppressed by their oppressors.

expense of which cost more than L. 400. One of these marl mosses, called Stonyford, measures about 40 acres, with peat above, and under which there is a seam of excellent marl, from 10 to 11 feet deep. Besides the lakes which have been drained for the objects just mentioned, there must have been formerly a very large one on the farm of Whitslade, the property of George Pott, Esq. of Todrig, as a rocky barrier crosses the river Ale, a little to the east of that farm, which has been worn down by the action of the water, in the course of ages, to the depth of more than 100 feet, and is now called the Leap Linns. Above these linns, on the banks of the river, the large meadow, and other lands, that had formed the lowest portions of the bottom of the lake, are still remarkable for their richness and fertility.

Rivers.—The only river is the Ale, which takes its rise from the lakes of Ale Moor and Shaws, and runs nearly through the centre of the parish from west to east. This river abounds with excellent trout. But in summer it is in general too small for angling. A few sea trout and small salmon occasionally reach this length, at certain seasons of the year, after the river has been flooded.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The general direction of the stratification of this parish lies from south-west to north-east. The rocks belong to the transition series, and consist almost entirely of greywacke with a basis of clay-slate. The general dip may be stated at 45° , though it varies in different places from the perpendicular to the horizontal. The stratification of the Leap Linns, already mentioned, the rocks cut through by the action of the water, seems to be nearly in a horizontal position. No limestone has yet been discovered in the parish.

The skulls of various species of animals not now to be found, have been dug from the marl mosses. The writer of these pages has seen a large and beautiful specimen of the horns of the stag, in the possession of John C. Scott, Esq. of Synton, which was found imbedded in a marl moss, the property of the same gentleman. The soil is in general light, from the decomposition of the rocks of which it is formed, but in some places the soil is of a clayey description mixed with gravel, and some of the haughs on the banks of the Ale are alluvial. Though there are good crops of various kinds, both green and white, raised in the parish; yet, from the character of the soil, and the nature of the climate, neither can be regarded as of the best quality. The pasture lands rear excellent Cheviot sheep, which yield wool of a fine quality. But the stock

on the farms in the upper part of the parish are subject to a disease known by the name of "the loup-ill," which in a cold and barren spring often causes very severe loss both of ewes and lambs.

Zoology.—That this parish was formerly inhabited by animals that have long since disappeared is proved by the best of all evidence,—the bones of the animals themselves found in various marl mosses. Besides the horns of the stag already mentioned, the horns of the urus were dug from the same moss. There are now no birds or animals that can be regarded as peculiar to the parish, but such as are common to the surrounding district. There are still a few foxes, and plenty of hares, rabbits, black and red grouse, and partridges.

Botany.—In the bog lands, the *orchis* may be found in many of its beautiful varieties; and in moss lands the *Eriophorum vaginatum* in great abundance, and the *Trollius Europæus* are also to be seen in various meadow lands. The natural grasses found in this parish are the *Scirpus cæspitosus*; it grows on thin mossy soil, mixed with heath, but as it soon fades, it is of no value for winter pasture. The *Nardus stricta* and *Aira cærulea* being short lived are also less valuable. But the *Juncus squarrosus* being an evergreen, and a hardy perennial, is of considerable importance. But the most valuable spring grass for sheep is the *Eriophorum vaginatum*; and *Sesleria cærulea*, as it remains green during the spring months, is highly valuable; and the *Juncus acutiflorus* is of great value, both for pasture and hay for cattle during the winter.

That a great quantity and variety of natural wood, once existed in the parish is proved by the large quantity of decayed wood found in various mosses; but both the quantity and variety of natural wood which now remain are inconsiderable. But, on a few estates, their place has been well supplied by large and thriving plantations. Archibald Cochrane, Esq. of Ashkirk, has planted upon his estate above 40 acres, consisting of the various species of fir, and with a proper mixture of ash, elm, and oak. And John C. Scott, Esq. of Synton, has planted upon his estate 230 acres, laid out with great judgment and taste, both for shelter and ornament; and, with the exception of a few old trees, around the house, the whole has been planted by the present spirited proprietor. There is a very fine old tree near the house, which measures $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference; and what is very remarkable, there is an oak measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, which was planted by the hands of

the present proprietor.—Charles B. Scott, Esq. of Woll, has about 70 acres of very fine plantation, including the policy. There are two large and beautiful hollies, near the house, the one measuring at one foot from the ground, and at five feet from the ground, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference. The other measures at one foot from the ground $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, and at eight feet from the ground, 5 feet in circumference. The policy has been much improved, and the wood judiciously thinned by the present proprietor, which has added much to the natural beauty of the commanding situation on which the house stands. There are about thirty acres of plantation on North Synton, the property of Robert Pringle, Esq. of Clifton; and on Drydean, the property of the Earl of Minto, about six acres; and on Burnfoot, the property of Elliot Lockhart, Esq. of Borthwickbrae, there are from 8 to 10 acres, which in all make of plantation in the parish about 386 acres.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There are no ancient records or MSS. that refer solely to this parish, but it is frequently mentioned in general descriptions of the county, one of which, a very able article, was furnished to the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, by Mr William Laidlaw, author of *Lucy's Flittin* and many valuable essays.

Land-owners.—The land-owners in the parish are, in the order of their valuation as follows: John C. Scott, Esq. of Synton; The Earl of Minto; Archibald Cochrane, Esq. of Ashkirk; Elliot Lockhart, Esq. of Borthwickbrae; Charles B. Scott, Esq. of Woll; Robert Pringle, Esq. of Clifton; George Pott, Esq. of Todrig; Mark Sprot, Esq. of Riddell.

Parochial Registers.—There are some very old and curious entries in the registers of this parish, but unfortunately the books are far from being entire. In looking over the registers, you may find them for a few years here and there pretty regularly kept, but, upon the whole, they are still far from being an accurate record of what they were intended to preserve.

Historical Events.—The greater portion of the parish at one time formed part of the see of Glasgow. The Bishop of Glasgow had a palace, which stood on a field now forming part of the present glebe-lands. Some old men in the parish remember to have seen part of the walls, and the field at this day retains the name of Palace Walls; and the greater number of the present proprietors still hold of the College of Glasgow.

Eminent Characters.—It is a curious fact that at one time al-

most the whole parish belonged to gentlemen of the name of Scott. In the following lines from Satchel's poems, we find almost all the properties in the parish mentioned by name.

" And John of Middlestead together came;
Robert of Huntly he did not fail,
He came with the Scotts of the Water of Ail;
So did Walter of Todrig that well could ride.
And Robert Scot, brother to Whitslade,
Andrew of Sallinside he was one,
With James of Kirkhouse. and Askirk's John;
Robert of Headshaw himself would gang,
He was his honour's cousin-german;
Synton and Wall, they stay'd at home,
Kirkhouse and Askirk went in their room;
Because it was my Lord's decree,*
But younger brethern they all should be."

In the Lyon Office of Scotland, there are some curious and interesting particulars of the Scotts of this parish, many of whom were celebrated in the border wars of the time. It is stated in the pedigrees compiled by Dr William Scott, that a younger son of the then Baron of Buccleuch (1288) named John, was sent to St Mungo's, Glasgow, for his education, being lame, and hence unfit for the then border service. Walter, the grandson of the said John, became a chamberlain to the then Archbishop of Glasgow, who had a large interest in the parish, as we have already seen, and recommended him to his cousin of Buccleuch, when the said Walter, acting for the bishop in the capacity just mentioned, settled at Burnfoot, on the water of Ale. This Walter, called by the cant name of Watt the Ratton, from his fellness and activity, married a daughter of Mr Shortread, of Headshaw, by whom he had four sons; the eldest, George, his heir, of Synton; the second, Scott of Headshaw; the third, Scott of Glack; and the fourth, Scott of Ashkirk in Roxburghshire.

It is recorded by the same authority, that George, the seventh from Buccleuch, and fifth of Synton, married a daughter of Thomas Scott of Robertson, in Roxburghshire, by whom he had two sons, Walter and William; Walter, the eldest, was designed of Synton; and William, the younger, of Harden. It is from this William Scott of Harden that the present Scott of Gala, Selkirkshire, Scott of Woll, Scott of Synton, Scott of Raeburn, &c. are descended.†

* The "Lord's decree" here mentioned, was the then Lord Buccleuch, who chose thirty-three of his kinamen to take Armstrong from the Castle of Carlisle.

† See Captain W. Scott's *Genealogical Essays*, part ii. p. 13, 17, 19, 20, 66, &c. See also *Baronage of Scotland*, and Nisbet's *Extracts from the Lyon Office*, printed in his *Heraldry*.

John Scott, the last of Whitslade, sold that estate, which then consisted of Whitslade, Castleside, the Readforgreens, Ashkirk, Ashkirk-mill, Salanside, Bradley, &c. only about the year 1722. And Thomas Scott, the last of Todrig, who had been a brave warrior, both by sea and land, only sold Todrig in 1748, having sold the estate of Wester Essenside a few years before. He died in 1753, and was buried at Ashkirk in an isle now removed. His arms were cut in wood on his seat in the old church, bearing the date 1622. It will be seen from the list of land-owners already given, that Synton and Woll are the only properties that now remain in the possession of the illustrious name of Scott.

The details now given may be regarded by some of the mere utilitarians of the age, as fit only to amuse the idle hours of the antiquary, but they will appear in a different light to the philosopher and historian, who are anxious to unfold the laws that regulate the distribution of wealth and property among the great family of mankind.

Antiquities and Traditions.—Besides the ruins of the Palace of the Bishop of Glasgow, already mentioned, there are two Danish encampments on the farm of Castleside,—the one entire, but the other much effaced by the plough. There was formerly a very strong tower or keep on the lands of Salanside, but now the ruins are scarcely visible. There are also in various other places vestiges of encampments, but their origin cannot be very accurately ascertained.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the amount of population, according to the report of Dr Webster, was 629.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| In 1801, males | 252 | Females, | 259 | 511 |
| 1811, do. | 284 | do. | 290 | 574 |
| 1821, do. | 260 | do. | 284 | 544 |
| 1831, - | - | - | - | 565 |

By a census taken in 1835, the number of Dissenters in the parish was 93; and those that belong to the Established Church amount to 173.

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| The number of children under 12 years of age, | - | 177 |
| 7 | - | 126 |
| Number of communicants, | - | 173 |
| inhabited houses, | - | 102 |
| families, | - | 78 |
| Average number of children in each family, | - | 6 |
| of deaths for the last seven years, | - | 4 |
| births, | - | 10 |
| marriages, | - | 4 |

The number of resident proprietors 3, who at least reside for the summer months. There are 5 masons, 2 carpenters, 2 tailors,

1 smith, and a respectable farrier. The number of agricultural labourers has not been accurately ascertained.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—Land cultivated, 2804 acres. The number of acres of pasture land has not been ascertained. Land capable of cultivation with a profitable application of capital, inconsiderable. Land planted about 386 acres.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is from 14s. to 15s. per acre; for grazing, per cow, L. 4, for wintering L. 1, 10s.; of pasturing from 5s. to 6s. per sheep. The rental of the parish is about L. 4479, 7s.

Wages.—Farm-servants with families, have in lieu of board, 3 loads of meal, the produce of a cow, and a certain quantity of potatoes planted. The average wages of such servants is from L. 9 to L. 10. Shepherds have for wages the keeping of forty-five sheep. The yearly wages of female servants vary from L. 5 to L. 7, exclusive of board. The artisans of the parish, such as masons, carpenters, and smiths, make, per day, from 2s. to 2s. 4d.; common labourers, such as roadmen, from 1s. 8d. to 2s.

Prices.—The average price of wool and sheep from 1826 to 1831 inclusive, has been accurately ascertained, which is as follows: Cheviot wool laid with tar and butter, per stone of 24 lbs. English, 10s. 7d.; ditto laid with turpentine, 14s. 2d.; ditto pure white 17s. 1d.; stock wethers hogs unclipt, 12s. 9d.; ditto ewe hogs unclipt, 14s. 2d.; ewe hogs sold at market, 11s. 3d.; top wether lambs, 6s. 6d.; second ewe and wether lambs, 5s. 3d.; draft ewes, 12s. 8d.; wethers unclipt, 19s. 9d.; wethers for turnip feeding, L. 1, 0s. 6d.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—The Cheviot is now the only breed of sheep in the parish; the black-faced have entirely disappeared. On a few farms the Cheviot ewes are crossed with the Leicester breed, and produce what are termed half-bred lambs, which yield a much higher price than Cheviot lambs; but this advantage is gained with many drawbacks of another description, which render the ultimate results doubtful, except on a few farms peculiarly situated. The present breed of cattle in the parish is what is termed the short-horned, being found upon the whole to be the most profitable. A few Highland cattle are wintered in the parish, on farms that have a sufficient command of bog hay. The dairy is in a great measure supplanted by the rearing of young cattle, but what butter is made in the parish is of the very best quality,—our housewives being great adepts in this department.

Husbandry and Produce.—The quantity of land under cultivation in this parish must at one time have been very great, as traces of the plough are still visible upon hills now covered with heath. That any extent of this land could be reclaimed to yield a profit is very doubtful, from the great distance and consequent very high price of lime. Draining has been carried to a considerable extent, and might be yet farther extended with advantage. The average return of white crops in the parish may be stated from 4 to 5 bolls per English acre; cultivated hay, 150 stones of 22 lb. per acre; turnips L. 4 per acre; and potatoes L. 8. The land in the parish is in general very well farmed, both the four and five shift rotation being in practice.

The length of leases may be stated from nine to fifteen years; very few nineteen.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—There is no market or post-office in the parish, the distance from Selkirk being five, and from Hawick six miles. There are a few houses at Ashkirk, but nothing that deserves the name of a village. There are two stone and one wooden bridge across the Ale within the limits of the parish, all of which are in good repair, with the exception of the one on the Edinburgh road, which is a great deal too narrow. The parochial roads are but indifferently kept, though the expense to both landlord and tenant is very considerable.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present church was built in 1791, is in good repair, and is seated for 202 persons, allowing 18 inches to each person. The seats are all free. The church is conveniently situated, being nearly in the centre of the parish. The present manse was built in 1784. Some additions have since been made, and it is at present comfortable and commodious. It stands on an eminence, fronting the south, and commands a fine view of a beautiful opening of the valley, through which the river Ale runs. The glebe consists of nearly 14 acres, worth about L. 1, 10s. per acre. The glebe has been greatly improved by the present incumbent, being judiciously subdivided by hedges, with small plots of trees, at the corners of each field. The stipend is 14 chalders, consisting of meal and barley, the average of which in money for the last seven years is L. 216, 6s.; allowance for communion elements, L. 8, 6s. 8d. It deserves to be here mentioned, that the heritors of the parish, with a generosity which does them great honour, allow the assistant clergyman L. 30 per annum, and have

done so for the last five years during the severe indisposition of the present incumbent. Divine service is in general well attended, and the deportment of the congregation highly decorous. The Earl of Minto is patron of the parish.

The number of families in the parish attending the chapels of Dissenters or Seceders is 25.

Education and Literature.—There is only one parochial school. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geometry, land-surveying and mensuration. The average number of scholars may be stated at 40. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 30, and the average amount of fees may be stated at from L. 16 to L. 17 per annum. He has a garden consisting of 1 rood 28 poles imperial measure.

There is a large and handsome new school-house nearly ready for being opened, measuring 31 by 20½ feet within the walls.

Libraries.—There is a very well managed parochial library, containing a very good selection of books; and James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers, with a beneficence as honourable to him as beneficial to the parish, has sent a large number of volumes, which, after being read, he withdraws, and replaces by others.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are chiefly supported by legal assessments, which amount from L. 48 to L. 56 per annum. The number of paupers upon the roll at present is 8, and three families receive temporary supply. It does not appear that pauperism has been on the increase for a considerable number of years, from the data which the register affords; but the direct tendency of the system of assessments is to weaken the ties of kindred, to lower the moral tone of the people, to relax industry, and to diminish independence, unless met by powerful checks, from the peculiar situation of the parish. The yearly average collections at church amount to L. 6, 18s. 3d.

Inns.—There are no inns in the parish, and the character of the inhabitants may be regarded as sober and industrious.

Fuel.—The principal fuel used in the parish is peat and coal. But coal, being distant more than thirty miles, can never be rated under 1s. 3d. per cwt.; and often it is much higher, which makes the expense of coal so great as to place that article beyond the reach of the poor. But not only this parish, but the whole surrounding district, suffer the pressure of this great evil, which admits of no effectual cure, but a rail-road through the Carter Fell.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Statistical Account of this parish, the condition of the people has been highly improved in three essential elements of human happiness. The great mass of the inhabitants are better fed, clad, and educated, than their fathers were at the period to which we have referred. Farming is much better understood and practised in every department; a much larger quantity of produce is raised from the same surface; and the breeding and management of stock have been carried to a high state of perfection. Both the new farm-houses and cottages have in general been improved, in accommodation and in comfort. And the new offices that have been built, are more ample and convenient. But, with all these great improvements, still much remains to be done. Draining might be farther extended with great advantage, and, were landlords to afford their tenants liberal assistance in liming various parts of the parish, the crops would be much earlier, safer, and more productive.

And on the stock farms, in the higher parts of the parish, there is a great want of plantation for shelter. The writer of these remarks is not unaware, that there are farmers who demur to this species of shelter as inducing sheep to too much repose and inactivity in seeking food; but the objection has the misfortune of being directly opposed to some of the best established physical conditions, on which the health and productiveness of ruminating animals are known to depend.

March 1837.

PARISH OF BEDRULE.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD CRAIG, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish, as well as that of the stream near which it is situated, appears to be of Gaelic origin. From the modern spelling, one might be led to suppose that the village is so called, from its being in the hollow or what once formed the channel of the river. But neither the position of the village, nor the old spelling, will warrant this conclusion. It was formerly written *Bedderull*, *Bedderoull*, and *Badroull*, and the inhabitants still pronounce it as if written *Betherull*. *Rule*, or more properly *Roull*, is composed of two Gaelic words, and has no reference to or connection with *St Regulus*—*Ruchd-Thuil*, pronounced as if written *Ruchoul*, contracted into *Roull*, signifying the *rumbling-noised river*,—a meaning very descriptive of the stream, which, especially near the village, and till near its confluence with the Teviot, runs with a hoarse sound, over a very rough rocky channel composed of boulders and fragments of freestone rock, loosened by the action of the stream, through a long course of ages. *Bad* in Gaelic signifies a tuft of trees of ordinary extent, separated from a large neighbouring wood, or a collection of houses in a spot distinguished by its aptitude for building, compared with the surrounding localities, a meaning peculiarly applicable to the situation both of the old and new villages. Thus the whole word will be *Bad-ruchail*, pronounced by a true Celt very nearly as the vulgar *Betherull*.* The true orthography then seems to be *Badroull*, as it is found in the ancient distich,

“ And Auld Badroull had on his Jack,
Wi’ a’ the Turnbells at his back.”

And the name of the village in Gaelic means the village by *the roaring stream*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Bedrule is situated nearly in the centre of Roxburghshire. It is bounded on the east by the

* I am indebted for this etymology to Dr Mackay, minister of Dunoon, the learned editor of the Gaelic Dictionary.

parish of Jedburgh ; on the south by Abbotrule, now annexed to the parishes of Southdean and Hobkirk ; on the west, by Hobkirk and Cavers, from which it is for the most part separated by the Rule ; on the north-west and north, by Minto and Ancrum, from which it is separated by the Teviot. It is somewhat of an oval figure,—in length, from north to south, upwards of 4 miles ; in breadth, from east to west, between 2 and 3 ; and it contains about 6 square miles.

It consists of nearly equal proportions of arable and pasture land, —a great part of the latter being moor-land, producing an excellent kind of heath, on which the sheep seem to thrive. The soil varies according to the difference of situation and climate, as happens in all cases, where there is a sudden transition from hill to dale. The lands that lie near the Teviot and the Rule are generally composed of a rich sandy loam, over a gravelly substratum, and some small portions of clayey soil. These lands are well adapted for wheat and turnip. As you recede from the streams above-mentioned towards Bedrule hill and the Dunian, the soil becomes generally thinner and more sterile, with a retentive clayey subsoil, and in many places very spongy, requiring much draining ; and few lands can be more favourably situated for that important operation, as they generally slope towards the streams above-mentioned. For except a few fields of haugh land, there is not a level field in the whole parish.

Mineralogy.—The hills surrounding the village are, like almost all the other hills of the south of Scotland, of the transition formation, and consist of greywacke. In the bed of the river Rule, there are excellent specimens of sandstone, horizontally disposed, of a reddish colour, and apparently belonging to the floetz formation. Some fine specimens of this sandstone may be seen about a quarter of a mile below the village. The new cut made for the Rule, immediately adjoining the manse, also displays the same rock, and along the right bank of the stream, below the manse about a mile, there are some quarries, in which the stratum has been dug to a considerable extent, and whence it is sent for building and ornamental purposes to different parts of the country. In the last quarry, the stratum of superincumbent earth is of great thickness, and the sandstone, which immediately succeeds to the alluvial deposit, seems to consist of a bed which is of great depth. The poet Leyden has noticed the occurrence of sandstone in the

course of the river* as one of its most remarkable characteristics, and as geological science was little attended to at the time he wrote his beautiful poem, the fact of his giving it so prominent a place in his description, may be considered as an evidence at once of the accuracy of the poet's observation, and of the circumstance having at all times formed one of its most characteristic features.

If any of the proprietors thought it worth their while to bore, it is likely that coal might be found in the course of the river. At all events, it is worth trying for. Attempts were made about forty years ago by the proprietor of the lands of Bedrule, who was at considerable expense in boring for coal, and though there were certainly some thin seams found, yet in the issue he was not so successful as his laudable enterprize justly merited. The failure, as is still thought, was not owing to the uncertainty of the symptoms, but to the great deepness of the main seam. Limestone is found in Bedrule hill, and Mr Pringle, the late tenant of Bedrule farm, opened a quarry, and constructed a kiln, from which he not only supplied his own farm with lime, but sold a considerable quantity to the neighbouring tenants. Mr Brodie, the present tenant, has not continued the practice, and considers the limestone of an inferior quality. The distance and consequent high price of coal must always prove a great impediment to undertakings of the kind in this parish.

Climate.—The climate in this parish varies considerably, as might be expected from its variety of elevation. The temperature of the higher parts, consisting of a range of hills, beginning at the Dunian on the east, and extending nearly the whole breadth of the parish, varies considerably from that of the lower grounds lying near the banks of the Teviot and the Rule; and while the former are white with snow, scarcely a particle will be found in the latter; so that we have, as it were, two climates in the same parish. Upon the whole, the climate is damp and vaporous, especially on the banks of the two streams. A dense and impenetrable fog frequently arises from the Rule, especially in the autumnal and winter months, and can be distinctly traced, till it joins a larger exhalation arising from the Teviot, at its confluence with that stream. Ruberslaw frequently attracts the lightning, and a thunder-storm in its neighbourhood is a very grand and magnifi-

* Between red exlar banks, that frightful scowl,
Fringed with gray hazel, roars the mining Roull.
Scenes of Infancy, p. i. page 318.

cent object. A striking proof of the great humidity of the atmosphere, is the tendency which trees and bushes have to be covered with moss, when they have stood a year or two in the ground.

Zoology.—This parish is well stocked with the game usual in similar localities. The rooks and wood-pigeons are, by their numbers and voracity, very destructive to the fields and gardens. There is a heronry on the estate of Wells, in the immediate neighbourhood of the parish. These birds build their nests in tall trees, and are preserved with great care, as a thing rare in this part of the country. They are great enemies to the angler, by the destruction which they make among the trouts. Among the rarer birds may be mentioned the most beautiful of all British birds, the halcyon or kingfisher, on the banks of the Rule; the cross-bill (*Lorix curvirostra*.) The golden-crested wren occurs, but it is very rare.

Insects.—Of the almost innumerable tribes of the insect race, it would be impossible to give any adequate account, even if the writer were sufficiently conversant with the subject to manage the task. But it is deserving of notice, that he observed last season, in the vicinity of the manse, a species of butterfly, which has hitherto been supposed to be confined to England, namely the brimstone butterfly (*Gonepteryx Rhamni*.) The hitherto supposed absence of this beautiful species from Scotland has been plausibly ascribed to the great rarity of the plant *Rhamnus catharticus*, on which the caterpillar feeds. The insect occurs in abundance, as far north as York, and specimens are occasionally seen not much to the south of the border; but this seems to be the first instance of its having been observed in Scotland. The turnip saw-fly (*Athalia spinarum*) appeared in the parish last summer, and did some injury, although not by any means to the same extent as in some of the adjoining districts.

Botany.—The few plants worthy of notice in the parish are the following: *Pyrola minor*, woods about Wells; *Fedia dentata*, *Cichorium Intybus*, meadows on the banks of the Rule, occasional, probably introduced; *Epipactis latifolia*, *Euonymus Europæus*, *Sanicula Europæa*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Valeriana dioica*. There is a considerable extent of natural wood, consisting of birch, alder, hazel, wild-cherry, common and mountain ash. The oak and all kinds of fir seem to thrive well in this parish, especially the spruce. On the estate of Wells, in the immediate neighbourhood, there are some splendid specimens of spruce and oak; but the old

avenue to the mansion-house affords perhaps the most magnificent specimens of the lime to be found in this country.

Hills.—The highest hill in the parish is the Dunian, at the south-east extremity of the parish, where it joins the parish of Jedburgh. It is a round flattish-topped hill, containing about 300 acres. It is 1031 feet above the level of the sea, and is seen at a great distance, especially towards the north-east; and as there is no intervening height between it and the sea, it is seen from the utmost boundary of the coast in that direction, and at sea serves as a land-mark for mariners. The name is of Gaelic origin, and signifies the hill of John, or St John's hill.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—There are the distinct vestiges of an encampment on the farm of Newton, not far from the high-road between Jedburgh and Hawick. It lies on a sloping piece of ground in Newton moor, surrounded, on all sides but one, with running water. It is of a peculiar form, neither round nor square, but a kind of oval; and must have been very secure. The fossa on the north side is pretty entire, about 12 feet in height, and seemingly as wide at the top, narrowing toward the bottom. I am rather inclined to think it is Roman, especially as there was, till lately, a Roman encampment about a mile distant, in a field called Stirk-rigg, which is now totally defaced with the plough. The circumference of the one first mentioned is supposed to be 200 paces, the diameter 68 paces. A pendicle with the ditch continued on the south side, and joined to the west, but a little disjoined to the east, was found to be 127 paces round. This pendicle, when united with the larger, gives the form of an oblong square to the whole.

There is, almost a quarter of a mile northward from this camp, a pond, commonly called Newton pond, now used as a dam for collecting water from the neighbouring heights; from which it is conducted to Newton farm, to drive a thrashing-mill. It is, however, chiefly supplied from a perennial spring of excellent water, which issues from a sandy bottom in several small jets, on the south margin of the pond. This well is called Lady's well, or Our Lady's well. The dike is strongly built, and bears marks of antiquity; and the tradition in the country, that it was constructed by the monks of Jedburgh, as a fish pond, intimates a fact that seems to be highly probable.

The only remains of the old castle of the Turnbolls of Bedrule

are the foundations of several buildings, which occupy a considerable space of ground. They are situated on the right bank of the Rule, on an eminence, at a small distance from the church. The dike which separates them from the ploughed land on the east, contains some hewn and ornamental stones, which, there is every reason to conclude, formed a part of the ancient castle. About a furlong to the north-west of the ruins, on the other side of the Rule, which washes one side of it, is a mound partly artificial and partly natural, called Fastcastle, and seems to have been an outwork to the main building. It is of considerable height and compass, and must have been once surrounded with water, and, as its name imports, must have been very strong. Though this mound is now in the parish of Cavers, it seems, from its vicinity to, and connexion with, the Castle of Bedrule, to deserve a place in this account.

From the site of the castle of Bedrule, the prospect of the surrounding country is very extensive, exhibiting a combination of mountain and glen scarcely to be equalled. Among these objects, Ruberslaw, and the magnificent woods of Wells, containing about fifteen miles of walks, form a very prominent part of the picture.

At Fulton, once a separate village and farm, but now united to Bedrule, there is a considerable ruin of one of those strongholds called Border Peels. There are three side walls pretty entire, and of great thickness and solidity. The building is about the usual size, of a square form, with loop-holes in the wall, for the discharge of arrows.*

Historical Notices.—The earliest account of this parish is to be found quoted by Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, where he says that Randolph, eldest son of Dunegal of Stranith, (Nithsdale,) a Gaelic chief in the reign of David I., possessed a large share of his father's land, and, as the head of the family, was superior of the whole.

* There is a tradition in the country, that the last person who inhabited this Peel was one of the Turnbulla, between whom and the Kers of Fernihirst there was a deadly feud. A band of the latter came to seize Turnbull, and having got access by stealth into the tower, came upon him, who, never dreaming of such a visit, was holding his infant child on his knee, while the gudewife prepared the *sowens* for supper, and amusing it by singing the old Scotch ballad,

Little wat ye wha's coming,

Jock and Tam and a' 's coming.

The Kers rushing in upon him, exclaimed, "Little wat ye wha's coming" indeed, and were proceeding to seize him. Turnbull, though thus totally unprepared, leaped up and seized his sword, and being a powerful man, was preparing for resistance, but was withheld by the tears and entreaties of his wife, who clung to him and prevented farther resistance. What became of him, after he had thus fallen into the hands of his enemies, the writer has not been able to learn.

Randolph married Bethoc, the heiress of some lands in Teviotdale. The descendants from this marriage assumed, in the thirteenth century, the surname of Randolph. Sir Thomas Randolph, afterwards Earl of Murray, was the great grandson. * We find a charter granting the lands of Bedrule, called Bethocrule, to James Douglas, who is styled *Militi dilecto et fideli nostro*—by Robert I. But the charter being mutilated, the date and witnesses' names do not appear.†

The family of the Turnbulls, famous for their predatory habits in ancient times, produced a man no less illustrious as a scholar than as a benefactor to his country. This was William Turnbull, son of Turnbull of Bedrule. He was first a prebendary of Glasgow, afterwards Doctor of Laws, and Archdeacon of St Andrew's, in the bounds of Lothian a Privy-Counsellor, and keeper of the privy-seal. He is styled William de Turnbull Dno Prebendæ privati sigilli custodi anno 1441.‡ When Bishop Bruce was translated from Dunkeld to Glasgow 1447, Turnbull was elected Bishop of Dunkeld; but Bruce dying in the same year, Turnbull was then elected Bishop of Glasgow, and consecrated in the month of April 1448.

This bishop (says Keith) was a person of an excellent character. In 1452 or 1453, he procured a bull from Pope Nicholas V. for erecting a College for literature within the city of Glasgow; after the complete settlement of which noble monument of his care for the cultivation of learning, he took a journey to Rome, where he died 3d September 1454.§

Rewcastle, or as it is written in old records, Rughechester, Rewlcastle, or Rouchcastle, is said to be a place of great antiquity. The castle has vanished, and even the site can hardly be distinguished—*etiam periere ruinæ*. There is a tradition that the courts of Justice were originally held there, and afterwards removed to Jedburgh. The farm-house is substantial, being lately erected; but the rest of the houses are in a very ruinous condition. Under the tasteful and active management, however, of the

* Chalm. Caled. Vol. iii. p. 71.

† Rot. i. No. 12 Registr. Mag. Sig. Robert I. Bethoc inherited the lands of Bethocrule and Rughechester, which is now called Rewcastle, in Teviotdale. Randolph, the son of Dunegal, and his wife Bethoc, granted to the monks of Jedburgh, a carrucate of land with common of pasture, in the vill of Rughechester, and this grant was confirmed by William the Lion. The original charter was engraved by the munificence of the Duke of Buccleuch.—Chalmers, Caled. Vol. iii. p. 71–72. ‡ Reg. Chart.

§ Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops down to 1688. By the Right Rev. Robert Keith.—Chalmers's Caled. Vol. iii. p. 622.

present proprietor, George Pott, Esq. of Dod, we may expect soon to see a great improvement on this farm. He has already commenced erecting stables, forming part of a plan of new offices, which, in point of elegance and accommodation, are of a very superior kind. The situation of Rewcastle commands the view of one of the most extensive and varied landscapes in the country. In this landscape, you have the vale of the Teviot from Hawick almost to the Tweed, bounded on N.W. and N. by Eildon Hills, the Lammermoor Hills, Home Castle and the fertile plains of the Merse; and on the south and west by the giant height of Ruberslaw, and the range of hills which stretch to the Etterick and Yarrow. There are few places in this county capable of more improvement, and in the hands of the present spirited proprietor much may be expected. This property formed a part of the estate of Knowsouth, long in the possession of the ancient family of the Rutherfords of Knowsouth. But shortly after the death of the late Captain Rutherford, the estate was sold by his heirs to the present proprietors.

Knowsouth.—William O. Rutherford, Esq. of Edgerston, and Sheriff of the county of Roxburgh, is now the proprietor of Knowsouth, having purchased it from Charles Scott, Esq. one of the heirs of the late Captain Rutherford. Mr Rutherford has been at great expense in building a very elegant villa, and in making other improvements on a similar scale. The house is of that style of architecture which is known by the name of the Elizabethan style, of which we have other specimens in the neighbourhood. It is, however, more ornamented than any I have seen, and the situation, that of the old mansion-house, being admirably adapted for this style of building, and well surrounded with wood, gives a grand and imposing appearance, as seen from the high road between Kelso and Hawick, which passes near it. Nor does it lose much from a nearer inspection. There are few more delicious spots than Knowsouth, and a more appropriate style of architecture than that adopted by Mr Rutherford can scarcely be imagined. There are two magnificent elms at a little distance from the house, which deserve particular notice, not so much from their size, which is very considerable, as from their wide spreading and numerous branches, which extend in every direction from the parent trunk. One of them measures 12 feet 3 inches in circumference, the other 11 feet 3 inches. They seem to have been coëval with the old mansion-house, and to have been pollards, which may account for the great number of

branches all springing out near one another. They must at least be a century old.

Newton.—This village, in point of size and importance, is next to Bedrule. The estate of Newton formerly belonged to a family of the name of Ker, cadets of the family of Fernihirst. There was a house of strength there, which is now demolished. The foundations of the old mansion-house, with the venerable avenue of trees, still bespeak the taste and grandeur of the olden times. It was lately in the possession of William Ogilvie, Esq. of Chesters, who sold it to the present proprietors, Thomas and John Scott, Esqs. The communion cups of Bedrule church were a present from Ker of Newton and his lady, according to the inscription* on each of them, bearing date 1716. Newton now forms but one farm, though it was divided into two in the memory of persons still living. But Stirkrigg, the name of the other farm, is not now discernible, the farm-house and all its appendages have passed away, and the plough has obliterated all vestiges of the place where it stood.

Proprietors and Tenants.—Sir William Francis Eliott, Bart. of Stobs and Wells, is the chief heritor, being the proprietor of Bedrule and Fulton. Besides Sir William, there are four considerable proprietors, and four smaller ones. None of the heritors are resident, except George Bell, Esq. of Menslaws, who farms his own property with great skill and success.

Parochial Register.—The registration of births, deaths, and marriages, seems to have been kept much better at an early period, than at present. The Session Records of this parish go back as far as about 1660; but the precise date cannot be ascertained, as the leaves at the beginning have been mutilated. This book, both for its singular form and penmanship, and the minuteness and accuracy with which every public transaction both of ministers and elders, is recorded, both on Sundays and on week-days, is a valuable relique of the olden times. It is of a narrow oblong form, being a folio doubled lengthways, like a merchant's day-book. The paper is coarse, and so closely written that every inch of it is occupied. It is to be regretted that many pages at the commencement and in some other places are so worn and defaced as to be illegible. The registration of births has been very irregularly kept for many years past, and though the present incumbent has repeatedly and earnestly impressed the propriety and duty of parents enrolling

* The words of the inscription are—"This cup gifted by Newton Ker and his Ladie to the church of Bedaroule, 1716."

the names of their children born in the parish, he cannot boast of much success.

Clergy.—Mr Joseph Tennent is mentioned in an old record of presbytery, as minister of Bedrule, as far back as 1606, and seems to have been one of the first incumbents after the Reformation. He lived till about 1631. He also held, for a considerable time, the living of Abbotrule, the cure of which he likewise served till about 1621; when it was disjoined from Bedrule, and Mr James Ker, laird of the Grange, (an estate in Abbotrule,) was ordained there, and was the first Protestant minister of that parish after its disjunction from Bedrule. Mr Tennent was succeeded by Mr David Fowlis, who was admitted 30th October 1633, by the Bishop of Caithness, * and presbytery of Jedburgh. Mr Fowlis was soon after translated to Oxnam, which in those times seems to have been considered as one of the most valuable livings in the south of Scotland; and Mr Henry Peirson succeeded him in the benefice of Bedrule. But the Covenanters soon after gaining the ascendancy, both these gentlemen were removed from their churches, for their attachment to Episcopacy.

Mr Henry Elliot was the Presbyterian minister who succeeded Mr Peirson, and was admitted by the presbytery of Jedburgh, assisted by commissioners, from the neighbouring presbyteries of Selkirk, Kelso, and Erselton; and died about 1653. The church of Bedrule was kept vacant, in those contentious times, for the space of five years. Mr Hugh Scott was ordained here 17th March 1658. He did not continue long minister; for on the re-establishment of Episcopacy, he was removed from his church for nonconformity. Mr James Adamson, minister of Carriden, was preferred to the living of Bedrule, 7th September 1664, and continued minister here during the reigns of Charles and James, and seems to have died about the time of the Revolution. He was succeeded by Mr James Borland in 1690, who was the first minister settled here after Presbyterianism was re-established. From his epitaph, written in respectable Latin, we learn that he met with a good deal of opposition from the Episcopalians in the parish—"qui juvenis veritatis viam per varios casus et prælatis ipsum persequentibus invictus tenuit."† Mr Borland was succeeded by Mr John Gilchrist in 1714, who in 1748 was succeeded by Mr

* Dr John Abernethy, then Bishop of Caithness, and minister of Jedburgh. He was the author of a work, entitled *A Christian and Heavenly Treatise, containing Physic for the Soul.*

† Epitaph in Bedrule church-yard.

George Dickson,* whom the late Mr William Brown succeeded in 1788, and died 23d May 1836,—having been minister of Bedrule for the long space of forty-eight years. The present incumbent was appointed assistant and successor to the late Mr Brown in 1832.

The late Mr Brown was a man of considerable talents and literature. Previously to his being ordained a minister, he taught as an usher in an academy in France, and in one in the neighbourhood of London, besides being some time a teacher in Watson's Hospital at Edinburgh; and was tutor in the family of Sir John Stewart of Allanbank at the time he was presented by the late Joseph Hume, Esq. of Ninewells, to the church and parish of Bedrule. He published an edition of the New Testament, with short explanatory notes, and marks to guide the learner in pro-

* It was during Mr Dickson's incumbency that the iniquitous transaction of the suppression of the parish and church of Abbotrule took place, which Mr Dickson strenuously opposed, along with Dr Charters of Wilton. Mr Dickson's reasons of protest are recorded in the Presbytery records, and as they are cogent in argument, and very interesting in the present state of the Church of Scotland, I have deemed it proper to insert them in full.

Protest of Mr George Dickson, Minister of Bedrule.

From this resolution of presbytery Mr George Dickson dissented, and craved that his dissent, with the reasons thereof, might be recorded in this day's minute, and took instruments in the clerk's hands, May 7, 1777.

The reasons are :

1mo. Because he humbly conceives that this method of constituting a pastoral relation is without rule or precedent in this Reformed Church, nay is such a dangerous innovation as the presbytery by their ordination vows are bound to guard against.

2do, Because such a *faux pas* in our Presbyterial conduct will be watched by our dissenting neighbours, as a very welcome handle to draw away to themselves many of our people, as well as a great part of these annexed parishes.

3tio, Because he conceives it is unwarrantable to appoint or require the people of Abbotrule parish to attend public institutions and divine worship at Southdean and Hobkirk, without first holding visitations of these two churches, and finding proper accommodation for their people so appointed—proper places to attend divine worship in—the present places of worship there will accommodate little more than one-half of the inhabitants so conjoined,—and he presumes that the presbytery will not pretend to dispensing powers, allowing one-half of their congregations to stay at home, nay, not even till such repairs of their churches, were they set about just now, should be executed; far less when they do not know about when they shall be set about. He does not dispute but these present houses might hold twice as many,—for any thing he knows, ten times as many, disembodied spirits. But while the worshippers there continue in the body, it necessarily behoves the presbytery, he presumes, to take care that those embodied worshippers have places to worship in, suited to their present embodied state. And there seems the more reason to doubt of these repairs being speedily, if ever, made. That after all that has been said of maintaining a school at Abbotrule, the school-house is going into disrepair, already it is stated: and there has been a school kept there, this last season, to the no small danger, if not certain detriment of some persons' souls. Complaints thereof has lately been made to him, as member of presbytery, again and again. Such complaint is far from being groundless or trivial; the instruction of youth in the great Christian Book being of inexpressible importance. Craving leave to add more reasons, if he shall afterwards see cause.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Jedburgh. Gzo. Dickson.

nunciation. It is a very useful book, and might be very advantageously introduced into public schools.

Suppression of Churches.—The suppression of the parish and church of Abbotrule, (said to have been formerly a pendicle of Bedrule,) and the uniting it to the already too extensive parishes of Southdean and Hobkirk, was a most unjustifiable transaction, to use no harsher term, and hurtful both to the religious and moral improvement of the people, and withal a most impolitic step. It is grievous to think of the many suicidal acts of this nature, which many presbyteries throughout the Church of Scotland committed during last century. Neither of the leading parties of the church are blameless in this matter; for they seem to have vied with one another in this absurd conduct, however much they differed in other things. In country parishes, the writer firmly believes, that this suppression and annexation of parishes, and, along with the suppression of the church, the suppression also of the parish schools, as in the case before us, has been one of the most fertile causes of dissent. The church is now reaping the bitter fruits of these misdeeds, in the bold and menacing attitude which a huge body of Dissenters in this country have now taken against our Establishment. It is to be regretted that the Church Extension Committee have, in all their laborious statistical investigations, never thought of devoting their attention to this subject. An investigation into all the suppressed parishes and churches in Scotland during last century, would lead to many discoveries, most important at this critical position of our national church. It would show how much the spirit of sectarianism has been promoted in many parts of the country from this single cause. It would show how much the peasantry in the districts of the suppressed parishes had suffered,—not only from their greater distance from their new parish church, but from the distance of the school being such as to prevent the greater part of their children from attending it, for one-half of the year.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish, by the return to Dr Webster in 1775, was 297 souls. In 1793, the number was about 259. At present, according to a census made by the author, the number is 257, of whom 116 are males, and 141 females. In 1832, the population amounted to 300 and upwards,—since which time there has been a remarkable decrease. The decrease may be accounted for by the decay of cot-houses, and the tendency of late to

convert arable into pasture lands, which require fewer hands. In the farm of Rewcastle, there were in 1832, 39 inhabitants, whereas at present there are only 21.

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| There are in the parish under 10 years of age, | - | 78 |
| from 10 to 20 | - | 64 |
| 20 to 50 | - | 86 |
| 50 to 60 | - | 14 |
| 60 to 70 | - | 11 |
| 70 to 80 | - | 4 |

Almost the whole population is engaged in agriculture. There are two stocking-weavers, and one smith, but neither tailor, shoemaker, nor joiner in the whole parish. These must be sought at Denholm or Jedburgh;—the former, two,—the latter, three miles and a-half from the village of Bedrule. What can be better wanted, we have neither alehouse nor whisky-shop.

The inhabitants in general, as in most pastoral districts, are simple in their manners, and temperate in their habits, and pretty regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. The late excitement with regard to politics has even reached this retired spot, and has done much to unsettle their calm and peaceful habits, and sour their dispositions. But it is to be hoped that this excitement will soon pass away, as there are already symptoms of melioration in this respect, and that the sound sense and deep religious feeling, for which the peasantry of this country have been so long distinguished, will regain their wonted sway over their minds. It has been remarked to the author, and confirmed by his own experience, that there is less gaiety and cheerfulness among the labouring classes than in former times, and that the song of the milk-maid, and the whistling of the ploughman, which were so common in this land of poetry and song—are now seldom heard. This most innocent and heart-cheering amusement, every lover of his kind—every one who takes a deep interest in the happiness of the rural population, the nerves and sinews of a country—cannot but wish to see revived, and that those sweet pastoral songs, with all their interesting associations, may again be heard—cheering the labours of the field, delighting the listening ear, and awakening in the mind the most pleasing emotions.

The improvement which has lately taken place, generally throughout the country, in habits of neatness and cleanliness, is very conspicuous in this parish. Not only are the houses of the farm-servants more substantial and commodious, but the furniture is of a superior kind to what was usual in former times. There are few

cottages in the parish where you will not find a handsome eight-day clock, standing beside a very neatly arranged *bin* of crockery ware. Two cottages belonging to George Bell, Esq. of Menslaws, deserve particular notice, for their superior accommodation and comfort. Either of them would have been considered a very comfortable farm house, fifty or a hundred years ago. The floor of one of them surpasses, in one respect, any thing of the kind perhaps in the whole county. It is made of a compost of lime and gravel ; and for hardness and smoothness, and appearance, equals any covered with flags, and will last, if properly taken care of, as this seems to be, longer than one laid with freestone flags.

The dress of the peasantry is neat and becoming. The plaid or *maud* of the borders, consisting of black and white, or blue and white checks, is almost universal among the men, and they arrange it with a good deal of taste. The dress of the female peasantry is very neat and showy—in many cases too gaudy and expensive for their station. The straw bonnet, of various shapes and hues, is very general.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Rental.—The valued rent is L. 3475, 13s. 4d. Scots. The real rent cannot easily be ascertained, as there is a considerable portion of the estates farmed by the proprietors. One tenant pays above L. 900 Sterling, another L. 610, another L. 405, and one farm, that was farmed by the present proprietor previously to his purchasing it, was let at about L. 350.

Farming.—The system of farming is generally what is called the four or five year shift, according to the following order, adopted by Mr Brodie of Bedrule, which may be considered as the standard, not only in this parish, but through a great proportion of the county. First year, fallow or turnip ; second year, wheat after plain fallow ; third and fourth years, grass ; fifth year, oats. There is a variation after turnip in the second year, when barley or oats take the place of wheat, which is only sown in a fine season. Sometimes, beans are sown instead of the second year's grass ; but they are not much cultivated in this parish. Mr Bell of Menslaws adopts what is rather unusual beside the four year shift, a rotation of seven years, and may be called the seven year shift, according to the following order : first year, oats from lea ; second year, beans ; third year, wheat ; fourth year, turnips ; fifth year, barley ; sixth year, grass ; seventh year, grass. That this rotation is well

adapted to the soil of Menslaws, there is the best of all proofs, the production of excellent crops.

Manure.—In addition to dung and compost, bone-dust has been introduced to a considerable extent, and its beneficial effects have been, as elsewhere, strikingly exhibited. Lime is used to a great extent, and as there is none now prepared in the parish, it is brought from a great distance, either from Northumberland or Liddesdale. Lord Douglas has lately erected some lime-kilns on the north side of the Carter, for the supply of his own tenants, and it is to be hoped, that they will be opened to the public also, which, on account of the proximity to this and some of the neighbouring parishes, would be conferring a great benefit.

Sheep.—The number of sheep in the parish is about 110 score; they are almost all of the Cheviot breed. Mr Jerdon, the tenant of Rewcastle, of a stock of 30 score, has generally a considerable number of his ewes put to Leicester tups, and the produce are half-bred lambs. Mr Bell of Menslaws has thirteen Merinos from the royal flock of Spain. He has had them only for a short time, but expects they will succeed in a dry soil. They are rather smaller than the Cheviot breed, and their wool not nearly so white, having a brownish tinge, and being in smaller quantity than in the native sheep. There are no black-faced sheep reared here, although the pasture seems well adapted for them. The sheep walks in this parish are, in a great measure, composed of heath, which, although it does not grow to the height and thickness of stem found in other parts of the country, is of an excellent quality, and when in blossom has a beautiful and luxuriant appearance. The sheep thrive remarkably upon it, and are seldom tainted with disease. It requires great attention and management by burning it down at certain seasons. The practice adopted, and found by experience to succeed best, is to burn it every four or five years.

Cattle.—The kind of cattle is what is called the short-horned breed, of a middling size, colour generally red or white, and a mixture of these colours. Mr Brodie generally purchases about thirty Highland cattle or Kyloes yearly, which being kept about a year are sold in the month of September. Most of the farmers feed a few cattle for the butcher, some of which may rank in quality with those which are reared by the best breeders in the country.

Wages.—The wages of a common labourer, without victuals, are 1s. 8d. in winter, and 2s. in summer. A gardener receives 1s. 6d. per diem, with his victuals, and a dram after the labours of the day are finished. A joiner receives 2s. 6d. and a mason 3s. a day. The gains of a farm-servant, or hind, consist of the following items in money and victual; L. 3 Sterling, 5 bolls of oat-meal, 280 pounds to the boll, barley, 10 firlots or 15 bushels, pease 4 firlots, 1200 or 1400 yards of potatoes planted; a cow's maintenance summer and winter; allowed to keep six hens, or 10s. in lieu; also a pig; (for house and plot of garden ground, the hind must furnish a shearer during harvest;) the driving of five or six single horse cart load of coals, for which he pays prime cost at the pit. He has, besides, a month's victuals during harvest, whether engaged in the reaping department or otherwise.

The gains of a shepherd, as might reasonably be expected, are greatly above those of a hind, but fluctuate with the value of stock, which constitutes a chief part of his gains. Shepherds have in some instances thirty sheep, and are allowed to keep a cow, and one or more pigs—besides a certain quantity of potato ground. Some shepherds, who are industrious and economical, realize considerable property, and there are instances, in the neighbourhood, of their being able to take an extensive farm.

Gardens and Orchards.—There are good kitchen gardens in the parish, and a considerable quantity of fruit raised; but the climate does not suit the production of the finer kinds of fruit. Apple trees thrive better than pear trees, and plums better than either,—especially that small yet most valuable plum, called Damson. There is an orchard consisting of several acres of ground at Knowsouth; * but the trees are old, and many of them decayed, and do not appear to be productive. There are also the remains of an orchard at Newton.

Arable Land and Produce.—The number of arable acres in the parish is 1600. The average quantity of grain raised per acre is five bolls. Of these 1600 acres of arable land, one-fifth is regularly cropped with turnips and potatoes, with the exception of a small part in plain fallow. Of the grain raised, about three-fourths are consumed in the parish. The number of acres sown with turnips is about twenty-five, the average value of which per acre is nearly

* Since this account was put to press, the greater part of Knowsouth, containing the elegant mansion mentioned above, has been purchased by George Pott, Esq. of Dod,—Rewcastle and Knowsouth being thus again united under one proprietor.

L. 5 Sterling. About twenty acres are planted with potatoes, which produce yearly about 800 bolls, most of which are consumed at home. A portion of both meadow and cultivated hay is raised; but the writer has not been able to ascertain the quantity, or any thing like an approximation to it. All that is raised is consumed on the different farms.

The quantity of wool grown in the parish is about 400 stones annually.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages and Country Seats.—There is no village of any considerable size in the parish. Bedrule itself, once a populous place, has now dwindled away to little more than a farm onstead. The houses in the village were all lately built, and being covered with slate, have, from their situation, a very neat and cheerful appearance. The farm-house of Mr Brodie is partly new, and is very commodious, and from its site, which has been chosen with great taste, it has a very imposing appearance, and commands a wide prospect of scenery in a high degree beautiful and magnificent.

Church.—The present church was erected about thirty-four years ago. It is built on the site of the old one, and though not so long, is considerably broader, and is capable of holding about 140 individuals. It is situated on the top of the bank, having a pretty steep ascent from the level of the stream, and has a commanding view of the surrounding country. What is rather uncommon, the belfry is on the eastern gable of the building, and has an awkward appearance. Sir W. F. Elliott, Bart. chief heritor, got a plan drawn out of a proposed improvement, with an elegant spire on the west end for a belfry and clock, and Gothic windows instead of the present ones. This plan, if carried into effect, would render the church one of the most beautiful and picturesque of country churches. The expense would not be great, as the finest freestone in the country could be got from Sir William's quarry in the neighbourhood. It would also add to the accommodation, by converting both the present passages into seat room, and affording the convenience of a vestry, which in all country churches at any considerable distance from the manse, is of great importance both to the comfort and health of minister and elders.

Manse.—The manse was built, according to a date affixed to the lintel of the kitchen window, in 1794, and is a very substantial and commodious house, without any of the gaudy ornaments of some lately erected manses. The great objection to it is the too great

number of windows, which lay a tax on the minister disproportioned to his stipend. Half the number of windows would have been sufficient; but it was built when clergymen paid no window-tax.

Of the 46 families in the parish, 25 attend the parish church, and 21 belong to Dissenting congregations of different denominations. There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish; but those who frequent such places go to Jedburgh.

School.—The school-house was built a few years ago, and both it and the schoolmaster's dwelling-house are very substantial and commodious. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 26 Sterling, with the usual quantity of garden ground, and six days darg of turf. The number of pupils attending this school, in former times, used to be much greater than now; but, owing to the decrease of the inhabitants in the village and neighbourhood and other causes, the number has much decreased. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The Bible is the general class-book, and the Assembly's Shorter Catechism regularly taught. Some of the more advanced pupils read Barrie's Collection.

Poor.—These are supported by assessment fixed by the heritors at their meetings, held twice yearly for this purpose. The allowance to paupers is generally between 2s. and 3s. weekly. In some urgent cases, more is allowed; but 3s. may be considered as the average. There are but four on the list at present, so that the poor's rates of the parish are very trifling. Indeed, there are few parishes in Scotland where public burdens in general, as they are denominated, are so light. Five hundred merks were mortified to the poor of the barony of Bedrule 1695, by William Ramsay in Bedrule mill, and Margaret Turnbull his wife; of which the family of Cavers Carre are left trustees. Mrs Mary Anne Stevenson, relict of the Rev. James Borland, (formerly mentioned) sunk L. 100 Scots to the poor of this parish, of which, according to the account in the parish records, the session appear to have been appointed by her as the overseers. Of the interest of these sums, mortified by pious individuals, the poor of this parish have received nothing for several years, and the writer has not been able to gain any satisfactory account of what became of the deeds of mortification.

GENERAL REMARKS.

A few years ago, there was a great spirit of emigration in this parish, as in most other parishes in the neighbourhood. But, since

the year 1834, a year fatal to thousands of emigrants from this country, who fell victims to cholera soon after their landing in Canada, the fever of emigration has in a great measure subsided.

The inhabitants of this parish and of the neighbouring parishes have several striking peculiarities of dialect. For instance, instead of me and he, they pronounce these words as if written *mēi* and *hēi*; instead of tree, they say *trēi*; and three, *thrēi*, which is precisely the German *drei*, by the substitution of *th* instead of *d*. They pronounce the Scotch twa, with a peculiar drawl, making it a dissyllable, as if written *twéah*; and brae they make *bréah*. All these sounds are rather pleasant to the ear; but their pronunciation of the initial *h* in some words is harsh, and cacophonous in no ordinary degree. Thus the proper name Hope, signifying a particular kind of glen, they pronounce as if written *whupp*; and hole, as if *whull*; horn as if *whurn*. These peculiarities, as far as the author has been able to ascertain, are confined to the higher districts of Roxburghshire. It might afford a curious subject of inquiry how this peculiarity of sounding the initial *h* originated, and how far it might serve to throw light on the Aeolic Digamma, a subject which has so long divided and perplexed scholars "et adhuc sub judice lis est." These peculiarities of dialect are, of course, generally confined to the lower ranks of the people,—although, such is the effect of habit and imitation, you hear sometimes people, from whose education and rank you might augur differently, utter the same harsh and barbarous sounds.

May 1837.

PARISH OF KELSO.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. J. M. MACCULLOCH, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—KELSO,* formerly written Kellsowe, and at still more remote periods, Calchow and Calkow, is supposed to owe its name to the cliff on which part of the town stands. The name *Calkow* is composed of two words,—the Celtic *calch* or *cealc*, chalk, and the Anglo-Saxon *ho* or *how*, a height: and as the cliff referred to contains gypsum and other calcareous earths, the appellation *Calk-how* (Scotticé *Cauk-heugh*) is far from inappropriate. The hard and soft sounds of *ch* being interchangeable, the original pronunciation Kalkow would readily slide into the softened Kalchow; while the further transition of Kalchow into Kalshow, and thence into Kelsow and Kelso is easily accounted for by the *usus enunciandi* of the Scottish border. Up to this day, the illiterate part of the rural population give soft *ch* its French sound, and pronounce *cheap*, *cheat*, &c. as if the orthography was *sheap*, *sheat*.

Topographical Features.—In shape, the parish is nearly triangular; its greatest length is about 5 miles, its greatest breadth about 3. It is divided into two nearly equal parts by the River Tweed, which intersects it in a north-easterly direction, for about three miles: and as the parish stretches longitudinally in a direction at right angles to the river, so as to form a transverse section of the vale of the Tweed, its topographical features necessarily embrace both dale and upland, and exhibit the varied character inseparable from the scenery of a wide and beautifully-diversified valley. In the northern division, the country gradually rises from the

* *Kelso* is not the only name in the parish which exhibits traces of the successive possession of this part of Scotland by the Britons and Saxons. *Tweed*, the name of the principal river, is the Cambro-British *Tuedd*, the border of a country. The old Saxon *Lkew*, or *law*, a hill, enters into the name of not less than five heights in the parish, viz. *Brox-law*, *Galla-law*, *Sharpit-law*, *Spy-law*, *Soft-law*. One place, *Woo-don*, has the Saxon *dean* as its affix; another, *Muse-rig* has the Saxon *rig*. There is no trace of Scandinavian names; but the Norman *vill* appears in *Maxwell*, which was originally written *Maccusvill*, and named from Maccus, the proprietor of the parish of Maxwell, in the time of King David I.

river's edge, in a series of undulating ridges nearly parallel to each other and to the river; while, in the southern, the general slope of the ground, which also gradually rises as it recedes from the Tweed, is modified both by the precipitous character of the river-banks and by the valley on the west, through which the Teviot pours its tributary waters into the Tweed. Viewed from the distant heights of Stitchell and Hume, Kelso appears to occupy a level surface at the bottom of a wide and richly-wooded strath; but when seen in bird's-eye view from the vicinity of the river, it presents the appearance of an amphitheatre, varied as well in its physical outlines as in its artificial adornments,—intersected by two broad and noble rivers, and having for its boundary a circle of wooded heights.

Situation of Town.—The town is situate on the north bank of the Tweed, nearly opposite to the point where the Teviot falls into it; and consequently forms the centre of this amphitheatre. Nor is it unworthy of its environs. Like other towns lying on the banks of rivers, its principal street, following the line of the river, is tortuous and irregular, but it can boast of a square of no inconsiderable size, and some architectural pretensions. And its houses throughout being generally built of a light-coloured stone and roofed with blue slate, impart to the place an elegant and city-like air, which preserves its title to the description given of it by Patten so long ago as the time of Edward VI., as “a pretty market-town.”

Scenery.—The picturesque beauty of the scenery about Kelso is too well known to render any description necessary here. It belongs, indeed, to the class of the beautiful rather than the romantic; and its pleasing effect is due, not so much to the commanding character of any single object, as to the blending, combination, and harmony of the whole. Yet it may be questioned if Scotland contains a spot superior to it in its own style of beauty, or richer in subjects for the portfolio of the artist.

“Bosom'd in woods where mighty rivers run,
Kelso's fair vale expands before the sun;
Its rising downs in vernal beauty swell,
And, fringed with hazel, winds each flowery dell:
Green spangled plains to dimpling lawns succeed,
And Tempé rises on the banks of Tweed:—
Blue o'er the river Kelso's shadow lies
And copse-clad isles amid the water rise.”*

It ought to be added, that the charm of a locality, thus beauti-

* Leyden—“Scenes of Infancy.”

ful in itself, is in no small degree enhanced by the historical and legendary associations which are connected with it,—a circumstance of which no stronger proof need be adduced than Sir Walter Scott's testimony, that to this very scenery, amidst which he spent the latter period of his boyhood, he could trace the awakening within himself of that "love of natural scenery, more especially when combined with ancient ruins or remains of our fathers' piety or splendour," which was in him "an insatiable passion," and imparted so peculiar a colour to his subsequent pursuits and compositions. Every one has not, like Sir Walter, either a poetical temperament, or a memory stored with those treasures of border lore necessary to render the gray ruin and the "storied" meadow suggestive of the past; but the portions of border history or tradition, which the rocks, and ruins, and streams about Kelso recall, are fortunately too familiar not to place within the reach of most men the pleasure derivable from contemplating the locality in connection with its associated circumstances; whilst the visitor, whose associations take the direction of devotion rather than of poetry, will find here ample food for that enviable habit of mind, which, by connecting the idea of Deity with all the objects and aspects of nature, causes the landscape to become tributary, not only to the imagination, but to piety.

Climate.—Though, upon the whole, mild and genial, the climate of Kelso is scarcely so salubrious as might be expected from the latitude of the place, its elevation, exposure, and distance from the sea. In common with all parishes which lie on the banks of a large river, and in the trough of a valley bounded by hills, it is subject to more than an average share of humidity. Hoar-frost is prevalent during the winter months; and, at almost all seasons, a considerable portion of imperfectly dissolved vesicular vapour may be seen floating in the form of a thin mist over the bed and in the vicinity of the river. The prevailing winds are those from the west, which often sweep with great violence down the vale of the Tweed; but easterly winds are also common, especially in the spring months, when the blighting easterly *haar* is by no means an unfrequent visitor.

In point of climate, however, Kelso has undergone, in the course of a century, a great and beneficial change. At one period, all the meadow-lands in the vicinity were filled with pools and marshes; and even in the memory of many persons still living, the beautiful meadow, to the north-east of the town, which is

now used as a race-course, formed the favourite resort of a colony of sea-mews and wild-ducks, which regularly returned in the brooding season to its reeds and flags, and supplied by their eggs an article of considerable profit to the children of the poor. The last of these morasses has now disappeared under the ameliorating processes of draining and tillage; and intermittent fever, which was for centuries the scourge of the district, has departed with it.

Unfortunately no meteorological registers exist, of sufficient duration and accuracy to furnish data for determining the mean range either of temperature or of humidity; but the general mildness of the climate is sufficiently vouched by various well ascertained facts. Not only have grapes, as the black Hamburg and white sweet-water kind, ripened in the open air, during an occasional hot summer, and polyanthuses, primroses, laurustines, &c. been frequently in full blow during the winter months; but various rare plants have stood the winter, and bloomed abundantly in the open air for many years; among which may be specified the *Agapanthus umbellatus* (blue African lily,) *Euromocarpus scabra*, *Passiflora cærulea*, *Glycinea Sinensis*, *Fuchsia coccinea*, *conica*, *gracilis*, *Thomsonia* and *virgata*, as also most of the new varieties of Chinese roses.

Rivers.—The only rivers are the two already referred to, the Tweed and the Teviot,—their tributaries in the parish being but inconsiderable burns, which serve only to diversify the scenery at the point of influx into the principal streams. The Tweed is here about 440 feet in width; and the Teviot 200 feet; though the latter, in consequence of being diverted to form a mill-lead, is somewhat shorn of its fair proportions at the very point, that of its confluence with the Tweed,—where the lover of scenery can worst spare its full freight of waters. Neither of these rivers, if we except occasional pools or *wheels*, as they are locally designated, is, in ordinary circumstances, of any considerable depth or velocity. But from the length of their course, and the number of mountain-streams which fall into them, they are subject to frequent and sudden floods. Sometimes both are flooded simultaneously, and unite in one turbid and headlong stream, “rolling red from bank to brae.” At other times, the Teviot, which is of the two the more liable to floods, is seen after its confluence with the Tweed, carrying down its body of dense and discoloured waters on one side of their common channel; whilst the waters of the Tweed, as if unwilling to combine with it, flow along on the opposite side, pellu-

cid and untroubled. The highest flood of which there is any record took place in February 1831. On that occasion, the Tweed rose with a rapidity and to a height wholly unprecedented. The whole of the lower part of the valley had the appearance of a sea; corn and cattle were swept before the torrent; and many of the houses on the haugh lands adjoining the river were filled with water.

One result of the occasional floods of the Tweed and Teviot is much to be deplored. Immediately below the point where these rivers unite, and opposite the most prominent part of the town of Kelso, is an islet or *anna*, which at no very remote period was so verdant and richly wooded as to look like a basket of foliage in the middle of the stream, and to form, from its position, a centre to some of the finest scenery of the place. This islet has been severed into disjointed portions as well as robbed of its wood by the floods; and though several attempts have been made to defend it by bulwarks of stone, &c. yet hitherto these expedients have proved wholly abortive. Nor have the inhabitants any other prospect than that of seeing the last of its trees laid prostrate, and the remaining vestiges of its sward and soil swept down to augment the fertile land of their neighbours of the lower Merse.

Geology.—With respect to the geological features of the parish, it may be stated generally, that the lower and more level parts, constituting the great bulk of the surface, rest upon sandstone, while the hills and rising grounds are composed of trap-rocks, which appear to have been ejected from beneath through the former.

The principal sections of the stratified rocks occur on the south bank of the Tweed, which is loftier and more precipitous than the other. These sections exhibit strata of sandstone, shale, and marl-limestones, variously alternating with each other. The sandstone is either of a gray or of a reddish-brown colour, of considerable weight, and highly indurated except where the beds are very thin. There is generally a small admixture of iron, and a sufficient portion of calcareous matter to cause the mineral to effervesce freely with acids. In thickness, the sandstone strata vary from a few inches to several feet; and their dip is towards the south-west at an angle of from 15° to 20° . The shales, or soft marl-clays, which alternate with the sandstone, and in many instances form the more abundant strata of the two, also occur in beds of a great diversity of thickness. They are usually of a blue, brown, or purple colour; but the blue is the most common, and

it frequently contains, as in the *debris* of Broxlaw-hill on the north bank of the Tweed, red and white foliated and fibrous gypsum; the fibrous occurring in continuous veins, the red foliated in irregular and interrupted beds similar to the flint in the chalk rocks. The last of these alternating rocks, the marl-limestones, likewise occur in beds of various thickness, as well as of various degrees of hardness,—some being very compact and difficult to break, while others crumble down into cubical or rounded portions by exposure to the weather. Their colour is generally of a pale blue or gray, though at some places beds occur of a darker hue, and having very much the external aspect of common limestone. None of them, however, contain any considerable proportion of carbonate of lime.

The south bank of the Tweed is not the only part of the parish which presents sections of sandstone; but, as the others do not differ essentially from this, the above description may suffice. That which appears in Mellendean burn, the march between Kelso and Sprouston, has the same accompanying shales and marl-limestones, but is harder and more conglomerate. The sandstone which forms the foundation of Teviot bridge is still harder, and has the imbedded substances in considerably smaller quantities. On the north bank of the Tweed, near Rosebank, a thick bed of gray sandstone, formerly wrought as building stones, appears, accompanied by numerous thinner strata of the same rock, containing so large a proportion of mica as to be of a black colour.*

Trap-rocks are pretty generally diffused over all the elevated parts of the southern division of the parish; but the best section is in Wooden den, a romantic ravine through which a small burn flows northward into the Tweed. Entering upon the burn a little above the point of confluence, you first meet with sandstone, shales and marl limestones, similar to those on the banks of the river. On reaching, however, the point where the ravine begins to assume a glen-like character, a conglomerate rock of a dark-brown colour makes its appearance, which, though very much resembling the old red sandstone, proves on examination to be trap tuff, very much decomposed, and fast crumbling down into gravel and soil. This trap tuff (which in a basis of clay, contains nodules

* The question as to the particular formation to which these stratified rocks belong, is one of great difficulty. There seems, however, to be a growing persuasion among geologists that they belong to the coal measures. This opinion, though discredited by the entire absence of the bituminous shales, has at least the support, (if support it may be called) of the popular tradition, which bears that coal was formerly found in the district.

of sandstone, claystone, porphyry, heavy spar, &c.) is traceable up the bed of the stream for more than a hundred yards, when it is succeeded by a dark blue compact basalt with amygdaloidal concretions, chiefly of calcareous spar; * while this again immediately passes into a more characteristic amygdaloid, containing, besides calcareous crystals, portions of green earth and felspar. As we proceed onward, the country and the precipitous banks of the glen still rising in elevation, the character of the amygdaloid gradually disappears, and the rock is found to have passed into the compact felspar. A fine bold cliff, rising almost perpendicular from the bed of the stream, and projecting from the contiguous banks so as to form the turn of the glen, consists of this rock. It is of a gray and blue colour, and, besides being intersected with numerous veins of red quartz, is somewhat remarkable from its containing calcareous matter deposited in the form of calcareous sinter, and red calcareous earth, so as to line the sides of numerous natural cavities and fissures in the rock. The glen abruptly terminates in another cliff of from 50 to 60 feet in height, over which the burn falls perpendicularly, forming a pretty linn or waterfall; but this last rock presents a very interesting section, being in fact an epitomé of the structure of the glen; for the trap-tuff which forms its basis is seen gradually passing into the basalt and compact felspar, which last constitutes the great mass of the cliff above the base.

To this account of the prevailing rocks it may be proper to add, that the vale of the Tweed at this particular part, or, to speak more correctly, the large circular basin where the Teviot unites with the Tweed, exhibits very many of those appearances from which theorists generally infer excavation by the gradual subsidence of the waters of a river. The high and rocky banks, indeed, on the south side of the Tweed, and the other terraces on both sides of the river, which form the fence or girdle of this basin, may owe their elevation and separation from each other, to some other cause than flowing water, notwithstanding the comparatively uniform level of their summits and their covering of rolled gravel: the more probable supposition doubtless being, that they were raised by the force of internal heat when the trap-lavas which

* It deserves remark, that, though the point of junction of the trap tuff with the basalt or amygdaloid is clearly marked, there is no appearance to indicate the transition of the one rock into the other. They come in contact like two perpendicular walls, insomuch that it is impossible to determine from the appearances presented, which is the lower and which is the higher.

form the higher grounds in the vicinity were forced upwards. But, whatever may be the history of these rocky barriers, there seems little reason to doubt that the space inclosed by them, scooped out as it is in the form of a basin as if for the purpose of receiving the contents of two superb rivers, and diversified by haugh and meadow ground, and by gravelly terraces rising and retiring one above another, on both sides of the stream, like the tiers of a fortification, bespeaks the action of running water. Whether the Tweed and Teviot, at the remote period at which they flowed at some of the higher levels indicated by these terraces, united to form at this particular place a lake whose subsequent drainage excavated the lower parts of the vale, or flowed as a river as they do still, only with a more lateral and serpentine course, may be a question difficult to settle; but few geologists will be disposed to doubt that the parallel terraces, on one of which the Castle of Floors stands, constitute the remains of a plain or strath, of which all that is wanting has travelled downwards to form or enrich the haughlands of Berwickshire and Northumberland.

Botany.—Though there is neither mountainous nor marshy ground within its limits, the parish is not wanting in plants of sufficient variety and beauty to reward the search of the florist. In the bed and on the banks the Tweed and Teviot are found,

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Ballota nigra</i> | <i>Mentha gentilis</i> |
| <i>Blysmus compressus</i> | <i>Plantago media</i> |
| <i>Adoxa moschatellina</i> | <i>Potamogeton prælongus</i> and <i>pusillus</i> |
| <i>Cardamine amara</i> | <i>Salix pentandra</i> and <i>Russelliana</i> , forming some large handsome trees. |
| <i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> | <i>Tragopogon major</i> |
| <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> | <i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i> |
| <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> , in many instances with beautiful white flowers | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> , &c. |
| <i>Helianthemum vulgare</i> | |
| <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> | |

In the woods which skirt the banks of the Tweed are found,

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Arum maculatum</i> | <i>Pyrola minor</i> |
| <i>Asperula odorata</i> | <i>Veronica montana</i> |
| <i>Epipactis latifolia</i> | <i>Viola hirta</i> |
| <i>Listera ovata</i> and <i>cordata</i> | <i>Saxifraga granulata</i> |

And the borders of fields and road-sides give us,

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Bromus secalinus</i> | <i>Malva moschata</i> |
| <i>Carex intermedia</i> | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> |
| <i>Cichorium Intybus</i> | <i>Silvaus pratensis</i> |
| <i>Geranium lucidum</i> | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> |
| <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> | <i>Veronica scutellata</i> , &c. |
| <i>Hypericum humifusum</i> | |

In the den of Wooden, *Vinca minor* is found in great abundance, as also *Hedera Helix*, which greatly beautifies the face of the

trap rocks. Nearly forty years ago, the late Mr Dickson of Edinburgh discovered, near Kelso, one of the rarest of British ferns, *Asplenium alternifolium*; but although diligently searched for, for several years past, by an accomplished native botanist, Dr Francis Douglas, it has hitherto eluded discovery. A fungus, *Clavaria rosea*, new to Great Britain, although described by continental botanists, has recently been found on one of the road-sides. It is a very elegant species of a beautiful pink or rose colour; and as it has been seen for three successive seasons on the same spot, there is reason to hope that it will retain its habitat.

Besides fine specimens of all the more common forest trees, elm, plane-tree, oak, &c., which adorn the park and plantations of Floors and Springwood, the parish can boast of several single trees remarkable for their size, age, or historical interest. Close to the village of Maxwellheugh, is a *poplar*, which is estimated to contain not less than 800 or 900 cubic feet of timber; its height from the ground to the point where it gives off branches is 16 feet; its girth at the root is 31 feet; at 2 feet from the base, 21, and at 10 from the base, 18. An ancient elm, known by the name of the trysting-tree, extends its arms at the point where the parish marches with Roxburgh, and marks the spot where the river used to be forded before the erection of Teviot-bridge. It is now in the last stage of decay; but beautiful specimens of furniture made from its timber may be seen at Floors, especially in the magnificent cabinet of British birds which the taste of the present Noble proprietor has recently fitted up. Another tree of equal historic interest, though greatly inferior in age, is the yew-tree which marks the spot (in the park of Floors) where King James II. was killed in 1460 by the bursting of a cannon while he was engaged in the blockade of Roxburgh Castle. Nor must a remarkable *Platanus*, or oriental plane, pass unnoticed which, though it no longer exists (except in the shape of furniture,*) is still remembered as the favourite of Sir Walter Scott's boyhood, and must ever continue to be classical, as having afforded the "leafy shade" beneath which he read for the first time Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*,—the work which seems to have kindled the minstrel-spirit within him. This tree, under whose overshadowing boughs the border muse may be said to have visited and inspired her favourite son, formed the chief at-

* Mr William Darling, Kelso, possesses a dining-table made of the timber of this tree.

traction of a garden to the east of the town,—one of the latest in this district of those Dutch distortions of nature which have disappeared before modern improvement. The platanus died, in common with most of its kind in this country, in the unusually hard winter of 1814. The garden, of which its “huge hill of leaves” was the chief ornament, is a garden still ; but its straight walks, yew-hedges, parterres and labyrinth, survive only in the page of the “Great Magician.”

Zoology.—There is little in the zoology of the parish to distinguish it from the surrounding district. The Tweed, as is well known, abounds with red fish, which are believed to afford no ground for questioning the general opinion, that almost every river has its distinct variety of the trout or salmon tribe. A small pond, or rather tarn, at the western extremity of the park of Floors, contains carp and tench, while the park itself is not without its complement of fallow-deer.—Among birds, the swan deserves to be noticed, from the added charm which its presence gives to many of the fine scenes on the Tweed. There are, at present, six white swans upon the river at Kelso, each of them fully realizing, in its smooth and graceful motion on the clear blue stream, the poet’s description,

“The swan on still St Mary’s lake,
Floats double, swan and shadow.”

These creatures are so tame that they readily approach the water’s edge to take crumbs of bread from passengers ; and from the pleasure they afford, they are as much prized and guarded by all classes and ages among the inhabitants, as though, like the Queen’s swans on the Thames, they had the special protection of the corporation. They associate in pairs ; and, what is remarkable, each pair appears to have a specific section of the river allotted to it, which it guards with the utmost jealousy against the intrusion of the others. In the case of one of the pairs, this prescriptive domain extends over a space of considerably more than a mile. The interesting spectacle has been repeatedly witnessed of the old swans carrying the young ones on their wings across the rapid parts of the river, while they left them to stem the smooth water by their own efforts.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The history of Kelso, so far as it can be detached from the general history of the Border, may be conveniently divided into the history of the parish and the history of the town.

History of the Parish.—Prior to the Reformation, the territory now included in the parish of Kelso appears to have comprehended three parishes; the parish of Kelso on the north bank of the Tweed, and the parishes of Maxwell and St James's, * both on the south, and separated from each other by the river Teviot. Two at least of those parishes, Kelso and Maxwell, seem to have been erected and to have had each its separate church, at a period antecedent to the foundation of the Abbey. Of the church of Kelso little more is known than that it was dedicated to the Virgin; given to the monks at the erection of the Abbey; and burnt down in one of those military or predatory incursions to which the border counties were so long exposed. The church of St James's formed one of the three churches of the ancient burgh of Roxburghe, though situate on St James's Green without its walls. It was founded, according to the Chronicle of Mailross, in 1134, and existed till the beginning of the fifteenth century, when it was reduced to a ruinous condition, probably by fire,† during some of the border wars. The ruin might have remained to the present day, one of the most interesting antiquities on the border, had it not been for a steward on the Roxburghe estate,—more to be honoured for his economy than his taste,—who caused it to be demolished, in order that its materials might be applied to the building of farm-offices and fences. The last of the three churches, that of Maxwell or Maccusvill, was dedicated to St Michael; but the date alike of its erection and demolition is unknown: though the cemetery of the parish still remains to indicate where it stood. Still more scanty are the memorials of an oratory, in the same parish, dedicated to St Thomas, which is conjectured to have stood at Chapel, a place to the east of Springwood House.—From the foundation of the Abbey, when these parishes were assigned to the monks as part of their patrimony, their history, until the era of the Reformation, necessarily merges in that of the Abbey itself.

The monks of Kelso were of the class called *Tironenses*, a section of the Benedictine order, which had its original settlement at Tiron in Picardy under the elder St Bernard, and which was re-

* It is not absolutely certain that St James's ever formed a separate parish. The territory surrounding the church may have originally formed part of the parish of Roxburgh.

† This probability is grounded on the fact mentioned in the former Statistical Account, that in digging up the foundation, a quantity of wheat and barley was found in a charred state, scattered on a tiled pavement.

markable for the encouragement given by it to the arts;—it being a regulation of the order, that the brethren, besides observing the ordinary rules of the monastic institution, should practise within the convent some useful craft. The Tironenses were introduced into Scotland under the auspices of that “sore saint for the crown,” the celebrated King David, who was doubtless induced to favour their settlement, not more by religious considerations, than by a regard to the advantages likely to accrue to his semi-barbarous subjects, from the arts cultivated by the monks. Being only heir-apparent to the throne at the date of their first introduction (A. D. 1113), David appointed them a residence at Selkirk, in the vicinity of his paternal estate. But immediately on his accession, he made provision for their greater influence, by building, within view of the royal castle of Roxburghe, then the principal residence of the Scottish monarchs, the Abbey of Kelso, to which they were removed in 1128 or 1130, and in which they soon attained, under the fostering patronage of this munificent prince, a first rank, in point of wealth and ascendancy, among the religious houses of the kingdom.

It does not appear from the records of the times, that the monastery ever proved of such advantage to border civilization as its founder anticipated. Its history is singularly barren, in reference to the exertions of the monks in diffusing a knowledge of the arts, or even in preserving the treasures of literature. Yet for this, perhaps, the monks are not to be blamed, so much as the untowardness of the times in which their lot was cast. There never seems to have existed on the border that respect for religious houses, which in other places rendered them safer repositories for literary treasures than the fortresses of kings: Nor do the monks ever seem to have gained that ascendancy over the popular mind, which alone could cause the monastery to act as a centre and source of civilization to the surrounding country. Being the scene of almost incessant wars, not only between the two countries, but between rival barons, the banks of the Tweed were singularly unpropitious for the tranquil occupations of the library and the scriptorium, and not peculiarly favourable to the cultivation of the industrial arts. Nor can it surprise us that the only memorial of four hundred years of the monastic life—with the exception of some reputed improvements in horticulture, and the *titles* of a few lost controversial tracts,—should be the ruins of the magnificent Abbey.

The same causes which precluded the monks of Kelso from prosecuting the arts of peace, render their monastery more fertile than sacred edifices generally are, in the materials of military history. Their annals recall the "*memoriam perfuncti periculi*," if not the "*testimonium preteriti beneficii*." Indeed, from the commencement of the wars between England and Scotland, until the suppression of monachism in 1559, the Abbey is continually mentioned in connexion with the convulsions in which the confines of the two countries were involved. It seems to have been twice burnt, so early as the contest that rose out of the claims of Bruce and Baliol for the Scottish throne; and so little do the monks seem, even at that period, to have been respected either by the neighbouring barons, or by the people at large, that they required, in times of general truce, the protection of the King of England to enable them to buy and convey provisions in safety. The greatest disasters of the Abbey, however, were sustained during the successive invasions of the Earls of Surrey and Hertford, in 1523 and 1545. In the former of these incursions, a body of English under Lord Dacre, after sacking the town, demolished the abbot's house, burnt the dormitory, and unroofed the monastery itself,—conveying away the very lead which covered it, insomuch that all religious services were interrupted, and the monks compelled to retire to a neighbouring village to celebrate their sacred rites. The devastation of 1545 was still more irreparable. Kelso was not indeed, in the latter instance, the exclusive sufferer: for in the course of a few days, 287 places, including the four great monasteries of the border, were sacked, pillaged and dilapidated; but Kelso, as the only place that offered resistance, shared worst. The east and north sides of the Abbey tower were thrown down, and the choir reduced to its present ruinous condition, probably by means of a battery of cannon directed against it from the north-east; whilst the town was reduced to so wretched a plight, that the weekly market could not be held in it, but had to be transferred for a considerable period to the village of Hume. The Abbey is occasionally mentioned after this period as a place of temporary refuge from the sudden incursions of the famous garrison at Wark and other scourges of these distracted times: nor, indeed, do the conventual buildings seem to have been entirely abandoned by the monks, until the Reformation. But there is no reason to think that it was ever used as a place of religious worship, after the bombardment just described; and,

though Lesly speaks of a popular tumult in 1560, when the images and relics, and whatever else remained of its internal furniture and decorations, were defaced, yet it is certain that the Scottish Reformers are not open to the charge of having dismantled this Popish temple. The Erostratus in this instance was not John Knox, but an English baron.

The latest mention made of the monks of Kelso is in an act of Parliament, eight years after the establishment of the Reformed religion, appointing Sir John Maitland to hold the confiscated estates of this rich Abbey *in commendam*. From this document it would seem that they had disappeared one after another, and that none of them was left in 1587. When Maitland was raised to the dignity of Lord High Chancellor, the Earl of Bothwell obtained a grant from the Crown of the possessions of the Abbey. On the attainder of Bothwell, these lands and possessions again reverted to the Crown: and they were finally conferred on Sir Robert Ker of Cessford, Warden of the East Marches, from whom they have descended to the Noble family of Roxburghe.

About the year 1580, one of the cells of the cloister was converted into a church for the use of the now united parishes, and the services of the Reformed religion set up in the room of the Romish worship. A considerable period, however, elapsed before the plastic and ameliorating power of the new institutions became apparent. The bulk of the people, having been all along proverbially indifferent to Christian observances, and more open to the influence of fairies and elves, the last remnants of Paganism, than to any religious consideration, required to be instructed in the first elements of faith; while the unsettled state of the times presented obstacles to the success of the Reformed clergy, which render it far from surprising that the moral condition of the border should not have speedily assimilated to that of more peaceful districts. It was not till an advanced part of the seventeenth century that the good fruits of the great ecclesiastical revolution began to be gathered; nor even then, nor for generations afterwards, were these fruits so abundant here as elsewhere. Throughout the agitating contests between the Presbyterian and the prelatical parties, with respect to the King's supremacy, Kelso appears to have generally sided with the hierarchy; and even subsequent to the Revolution, when the question about Lay Patronage and popular rights, excited so warm an interest throughout Berwickshire and Teviotdale, such was the ascendancy of jacobite and high church prin-

ciples, that Kelso, though in the very centre of the agitation, remained an indifferent spectator. In the famous petition (and adherence) to the General Assembly "anent grievances," there are numerous signatures from all the adjoining parishes,* but not one from this. Nay, what would seem still more indicative of apathy in reference to matters then deemed so important, the appointment of a minister to the parish was, in the only instance in which anything like a contested election occurred, referred unconditionally to the disposal of the synod. The heritors and elders having been unable to unite in the choice of the same individual, it was unanimously resolved to submit a blank call, properly signed, to the synod, and to ask that judicatory to fill it up with the name of a qualified minister: nor do either the patrons or the parishioners seem to have offered any resistance, or taken any offence, when the presbytery, instead of obtempering the instructions of the synod, proceeded to settle a minister of their own nomination.

Towards the middle of the last century, there is reason to think that a more lively interest in the principles and institutions of religion was induced. This amelioration, tradition refers to the period of the celebrated Mr Ramsay's incumbency;—an account which is corroborated to some extent by the parish records of the time, which bear ample testimony to the vigour with which the Presbyterian discipline was maintained, and, therefore, leave room for the inference, that public opinion had then come to be in its favour. Conjecture is converted into certainty by the fact, that, about the year 1750, a Secession meeting was opened in the town: for, as the Secession judicatories were not in the habit of providing ordinances, except where a demand for them existed, or of breaking up the fallow ground, where they had it in their power to divide and appropriate the ripening harvest; the fact of their planting a congregation in Kelso seems necessarily to presuppose the prior existence, in the parish, of a strong feeling in favour both of orthodox doctrine and of presbyterial rule. But, to whatever date the commencement of the favourable change may be referred, there is happily no doubt that it continued steadily and progressively to advance, up to the end of the century. Nor need we withhold from the Seceders, the praise of materially promoting

* The number of signatures attached to this curious document, from some of the other parishes in the same synod with Kelso, are as follows:—Maxton, 17; Lilliesleaf, 56; Jedburgh, 63; Eckford, 90; Dunse, 12; Galashiels, 66; Earlstoun, 22; Westruther, 16; Stow, 65; Mertoun, 16; Selkirk, 24; Yarrow, 50; Hounam, 21.

a change, of which their own separate ecclesiastical existence was one of the fruits; though, doubtless, their influence would have proved far more efficacious for good, had they preserved unity among themselves, instead of splitting through internal dissensions from one into three congregations, in the course of forty years. It does not appear, that the higher classes partook much of the moral and religious improvement just described. On the contrary, it would seem that Jacobite principles disappeared among them, only to make way, in too many instances, for the opposite extreme of French infidelity. But the extent, to which the general population were brought under the influence of Christian habits, was indubitably great. There are persons still living, who remember the state of things sixty years ago, when family worship was so common, that you could not pass along the principal street of the town on a Sunday morning, without hearing from many "a lowly roof,"

"————— at intervals
The voice of psalms—the simple song of praise."

Since that period, domestic piety, it is to be feared, has rather retrograded among the working classes; though there is every reason to believe that the moral condition of all but the very lowest class of the people has, upon the whole, been gradually improving. An additional church has just been erected in connexion with the Establishment, in order to render the means of instruction commensurate with the spiritual exigencies of the parish. The attendance on public ordinances is becoming, every successive year, more numerous; the charities of those who possess the means of giving are keeping pace with the growing number and claims of the necessitous. And, altogether, despite the serious drawbacks to religious improvement occasioned here as elsewhere by the disturbing influences of political excitement and sectarian controversy, the prospects of the best of all causes cannot justly be regarded as discouraging.

History of the Town.—Originally, the town of Kelso seems to have been only an inconsiderable village, a kind of suburb to the then important burgh of Roxburgh, which lay on the opposite side of the Tweed. From the foundation of the Abbey, however, it began gradually to acquire a more important character. By the time of King Robert I. it had so increased as to consist of two parts, Wester and Easter Kelso; the former being probably the original village, and the latter that which gradually grew up around the abbey. And on the final destruction of Roxburgh by
ROXBURGH.

James II. it naturally took the place, as well as somewhat of the prominence of the celebrated burgh, whose inhabitants had transferred to it their residence and wealth. Of the rapid growth and early importance of Kelso, one decisive proof has been preserved. So early as 1323, an attempt was made by the burgesses to exercise a civil jurisdiction independent of the abbot. By their own authority, they undertook to make new burgesses, to license brewers, and in other respects to contravene the rights and privileges of their feudal lord. This attempt indeed proved abortive, and the burgesses were compelled to make an apology, and disclaim all intention of offending their lord, the Abbot. Yet the very making of such an attempt must be held conclusive of the growing prosperity of the place: such a thing would never have been thought of by a weak, or a poor, or a scanty population.

The connection of the town with the abbey necessarily made it a sharer for evil as well as good, in the fortunes of that ill-fated house; nor in truth, is its history from the fifteenth century down to the Reformation, any thing better than a detail of successive sieges and conflagrations. Whenever the abbey was assailed, the town was sacked; whenever the former was set on fire, the latter was burnt. Nor is there any thing in border history more remarkable, than the manner in which its buildings (probably for the most part of wood,) were continually repaired and restored, so as to form the materials of so many and closely consecutive conflagrations. Notwithstanding it was reduced to so low an ebb by Hertford's bombardment in 1545, as not to be fit for holding a market in, we find it possessing, at the era of the Reformation, only a few years after, the size and importance of the chief provincial town and emporium. "Non moritur, moribunda; sepulta, resurgit."

Soon after the Reformation, a new source of prosperity was opened up in the fostering patronage of the family of Roxburghe, who succeeding not only to the revenues, but to the seignorial jurisdiction of the abbots, conferred on the inhabitants all the benefits of a liberal expenditure, and an impartial administration of justice. Through this patronage, Kelso became, by the time of the Revolution, not only the chief resort of the gentry of the district, but a place of considerable reputation as a seat of learning. Its schools were frequented by the sons of the nobility from various quarters; and the rectorship of the grammar school was, in at least one instance,

(that of Kirkwood) accepted, in preference to the chair of Humanity in the University of St Andrews.

The same fatality in reference to conflagrations, which so often changed the face of the town in distracted times, seems to have followed it to a more peaceful period. A destructive fire broke out in 1686, which consumed about half the town; in 1738, it was wasted by a similar visitation; and there were fires of some extent so recently as 1801 and 1815. Of late years it has been spared every such calamity; and has shared largely, in common with the whole of lower Tweedside, in the advancing civilization of the nineteenth century. It is now one of the most steadily prosperous of the small non-manufacturing towns in Scotland; and its inhabitants form a little community, which, in point of general intelligence and polish of manners, may claim a place beside that of the most favoured rural districts in the island.

Accounts of the Town and Parish.—The most valuable of the ancient documents relative to the parish is the chartulary of Kelso with the rent-roll of the abbey, (*Rotulus Redituum Monasterii de Kalkow*), in the Advocates' Library; but almost all the information furnished by it may be obtained in a pleasanter form, in the *Monastic Annals of Teviotdale*, by the Rev. James Morton, one of the prebendaries of Lincoln, and a native of Kelso;—in which elaborate work there is not only a history of the abbey, together with an account of its possessions and revenues, but copies of the charter of its foundation by King David, the tax-roll of the abbey, and other rare and valuable documents. “*Kirkwood's Trial*,” a curious and rare work, published shortly after the union of the kingdoms, throws considerable light, though coloured by the Jacobite predilections of the author, on the ecclesiastical state of the town and district, at the period immediately posterior to the final re-establishment of the Presbyterian Church government. “*Haig's History of Kelso*,” published only a few years ago, may also be consulted with advantage, by such as wish to see a connected view of all the material circumstances in its past history or present state;—though unhappily, the value of this work is very seriously abated by the number of errors in chronology, and in minor points of detail by which it is deformed. Among abridged accounts, the most to be depended on for accuracy of statement is that under the article “*Kelso*,” in the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, conducted by Brewster.

Eminent Characters.—The number of eminent persons who

have been connected with Kelso by birth, residence, or burial, is singularly limited. In the long catalogue of abbots, priors, and monks, preserved in the chartulary, there are not more than two or three names which are associated, in the mind even of the learned, with any thing great or useful or interesting; the vast majority, from what cause soever arising, whether from their inherent mediocrity, or "quia carent sacro vate," awaken in the intelligent reader, no higher emotion than the names of as many individuals in any common muster-roll. The happy exceptions are chiefly the following: James Stuart, natural son of James V., who held the office of abbot, during a period which forced him to play a somewhat prominent part in border history; a monk of the name of James, who is mentioned by Dempster, (*Hist. Eccl. Gentis Scotorum*,) as among the most celebrated Scottish authors of the fifteenth century; and Henry, prior of Kelso in 1493, who was the intimate friend of the Italian poet Poliziano, as well as himself the author of several literary works, among others a translation into Scottish verse, of Palladius Rutilius on Rural Affairs.

Among the ministers of religion since the Reformation, only two require notice; the former, Mr James Ramsay, who, during an incumbency of nearly half a century, exercised great weight, not only in the subordinate judicatories, but also in the General Assembly; the latter, the late Mr John Pitcairn, minister of the Relief congregation, who, together with Mr Struthers* of Edinburgh, materially contributed to awaken, throughout all the sections of the Scottish Church, a taste for the graces of delivery.

Kelso has always been peculiarly fortunate in its medical men. Few country towns have produced, in one generation, three such distinguished ornaments of their profession, as the late Dr Andrew Wilson, whose treatise on Morbid Sympathy shows him to have been far in advance of the science of his age; the late Dr C. Douglas, the author of the former Statistical Account; and Millar, the well known writer on Asthma.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners* are, the Duke of Roxburgh, who holds about nine-sixteenths of the whole valued rent; Sir George Scott Douglas of Springwood, Bart.; Captain

* Though scarcely pertinent to the object of the present work, it may here be mentioned as a fact worthy of record, that the late Dr Andrew Thomson was accustomed to speak of Struthers as his master in pulpit eloquence. While a young man, the Doctor went often to hear Struthers, then the great oratorical attraction of Edinburgh; and his admiration for the orator was such as not only to leave an indelible impression on his memory, but to stimulate him to emulate the graces he admired.

George Scott of Wooden; James Dickson, Esq. of Pinnacle-hill; David Monro Binning, Esq. of Softlaw; Sir William Dickson of Sydenham, Bart.; John Waldie, Esq. of Hendersyde; and the Governors of George Watson's Hospital, Edinburgh.

Parochial Registers.—These consist of the minutes of kirk-session, the register of births and baptisms, and the register of proclamations and marriages. The session records, in ten volumes folio and quarto, go back as far as the beginning of the year 1622, and come down, with some interruptions, to the present time. These interruptions are from March 1661 to June 1668; from August 1689 to May 1692; and from September 1749 to August 1800,—though this last blank is in a good measure supplied by a set of duplicate minutes,—apparently the original drafts,—which extend, with but few intermissions, from 1697 to 1830. The register of baptisms, in eleven volumes, begins at 1597; but it has also many blanks, and is, especially of late years, far from being a complete list of the births in the parish. The register of marriages commences likewise from 1597, and is generally kept in the same volume with that of births and baptisms.

Antiquities.—With the exception of its magnificent abbey, the parish now possesses few antiquities of any note. Even since the date of the last Statistical Account, their number has been diminished. The site of the Church of St James's, near the confluence of the Tweed and Teviot, is no longer distinguishable from the surrounding sward of St James's Green. The churchyard of Maxwell still contains a few monumental stones, with the inscriptions tolerably legible; yet, from the dilapidated state in which they are permitted to lie, there is little prospect of their long surviving the fate of the older relics. Some minor objects and buildings in the town, "freighted with recollections" of the past, have also disappeared within a recent period. Nor does a single vestige now remain of the human bones, which used to be upturned, in great numbers, by the plough in the "*Bony Brae*," near Wooden, the supposed scene of a battle—with the Danes, according to some; between the Scots and English, according to others. The possession, however, of Kelso Abbey is itself enough to render the parish interesting to the antiquary; and there can now be little doubt, from the judicious and successful efforts which have been made since 1804 to disencumber the ruins of the rude modern masonry which disfigured them, and to strengthen and repair those parts which were verging to decay, that this solid and

majestic pile,—the monument of a period when Scotland vied with its richer neighbours in the splendour of its architectural edifices,—will long continue to be the ornament of the town and district.

The form of the abbey is that of a Latin cross,—though, contrary to the general practice in buildings of that model, the head of the cross is turned towards the west, and the longest limb is the eastern. The only parts of the building which are still tolerably entire are,—the western limb (or head of the cross) which contains, among other ornaments, a segment of a most magnificent archway; the central tower rising over the intersection of the cross, of which the north and west sides remain entire; and the walls of the transepts, with the northern entrance to them. Of the choir, which seems to have consisted when entire of three divisions,—a centre aisle and two side aisles, all that remains is one of the walls which upheld the main roof, and separated the main aisle from the southern side aisle. This wall consists of two arches with their piers, and the superincumbent wall, which has within it the thickness of two tiers of galleries, one over the other, and open to the interior by an arcade of small round arches.

The style of architecture is the Saxon; nor would it be easy to find better specimens, than occur, in the north and west fronts, of the deep-splayed Saxon arch, with its numerous mouldings and enrichments. But the fabric cannot pretend, any more than the other ecclesiastical edifices of Scotland, to perfect unity of style. While the plain undecorated Saxon predominates, the Norman and old English styles occasionally enter. The interlacing semi-circular arches, for instance, which range round the walls within and without, and which furnish, it may be remarked, as perfect specimens of this species of arch* as are to be found in the island, obviously belong to the Norman style, as do likewise the two arcades of small circular arches, springing from slender shafts, which appear above the massive Saxon arches in the ruinous wall of the choir; while the four spacious pointed arches in the centre of the cross, upon which the lofty square tower or lantern—the grandest part of the ruin—rests, are plainly of the early English or Gothic style. Of the general effect of the whole ruin, whether as an architectural pile, or as an object in the landscape, no de-

* It is acutely remarked by Pennant, in his description of this abbey, that the intersection of these interlacing circular arches “forms a true Gothic arch, and may as probably have given rise to that mode as the arched shades of avenues.”

scription can convey an adequate idea. Distinguished alike by its great height, its unity of parts, its massiveness, and its inornate simplicity, it produces on the spectator, especially when viewed from the west, south, or east, a distinctness and oneness of impression, rarely communicated by other than entire and compact fabrics; and it possesses, in common with all objects which are at once vast, simple, and symmetrical, the charm of gaining on our admiration, the oftener and longer it is contemplated. Its dimensions are as under:—Total length of ruin, from west to east, 99 feet; length of transept within the walls, 71 feet; breadth of ditto 23 feet; height of centre tower, 91 feet; breadth of ditto, 23 feet; height of pointed arches on which the lantern rests, 45 feet; width of ditto, 17 feet; thickness of lower walls, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

In the year 1649, a clumsy attempt was made to repair part of the ruin, for the purpose of converting it into a parish church. With this view, two low and gloomy arches were thrown over the walls, one over the transept, and another over the head of the cross, while a wing of rude masonry of a corresponding vault-like character was erected in the ruined choir. A second tier of arches was thrown over the former, to serve the purpose of an outer and inner prison,—which deserves to be noticed from its forming the *original*, whence the author of *Waverley* sketched the prison of Edie Ochiltree in the *Antiquary*. The former of these clumsy erections* continued to be used as the parish church till 1771, when it was finally deserted in consequence of the falling, during the time of divine service, of some fragments of cement from the roof. The congregation hurried out in consternation, under the idea that the vault over their heads was giving way; and, though the alarm proved unfounded, it was yet found impossible to persuade the people to reassemble in it,—the more especially that there was in circulation an ancient “prophecy” of Thomas the Rhymer, which bore that this “kirk should fall when at the fullest.” Nothing was done towards disincumbering the abbey of these unsightly adjuncts, until 1805, when William, Duke of Roxburghe, began to clear them away. His plans were followed up still more energetically by his successor, Duke James, who, in 1816, caused the whole remaining part to be removed; though it was not till 1823, that those repairs were made on the ruin which have brought it into its present state of beauty and stability.

* A view of the ruined abbey, with these rude adjuncts, taken in 1787, may be seen in Vol. i. of *Grose's Antiquities*.

Modern Buildings.—Although the town is remarkable for its general neatness, it does not possess more than two buildings of any architectural merit. These are, the town-house, which occupies the centre of the east side of the square, and the new church, recently erected on the north side of the town for the better accommodation of the members of the Establishment. The former is a building of two stories, with a pediment in front, supported by four Ionic columns, surmounted by a handsome balustrade, and with a neat turret or belfry of sufficient height to form a conspicuous object in a town destitute of steeples. The latter, the chastest and most elegant ecclesiastical erection on the border, is an oblong building in the Elizabethan style, with a quadrangular tower 70 feet high.

Several of the mansion-houses in the landward parish and of the villas in the environs of the town, deserve to be noticed. The stately ducal mansion of Floors, erected in 1718, is not unworthy of its architect, Sir John Vanbrugh; nor will its character as “a building combining the ideas of ancient grandeur with those of modern taste,”* be diminished, but, on the contrary, greatly enhanced, by the alterations which are now in progress under the direction of Mr Playfair of Edinburgh. Ednam House is one of the most elegant private mansions that Nisbet ever designed. A gateway, after a design of Mr Gillespie Graham, forming the entrance to the beautiful park of Springwood, is also generally admired as a happy application of the style of a Grecian doorway to the purposes of a detached entrance gate. Nor would the mansion-houses of Springwood, Wooden, Pinnacle Hill, Woodside, &c. deserve to pass unnoticed in a district less richly studded with elegant country seats.

But by far the most perfect specimen of modern architecture in the parish, is the bridge across the Tweed, which unites in a remarkable manner simplicity with strength. The plan was furnished by the late Mr Rennie; and its perfection as an architectural structure may be inferred from the fact, that when called upon at a subsequent period to furnish a plan for Waterloo Bridge across the Thames at London, this eminent engineer, unable to suggest a better design, produced an enlarged duplicate of Kelso Bridge. It was begun in 1800, to supply the place of one † which had been swept away

* These are the terms in which Sir Walter Scott describes this spacious mansion.

† The bridge here alluded to was situate a little farther up the Tweed, and was built in 1754. There was in early times a bridge across the Tweed, at the town of Roxburgh, which was often destroyed and renewed, during contests for that town.

by an overflowing of the Tweed in 1797; and it was finished in 1803, at an expense, including the approaches, of about L. 18,000. The total length of building is 494 feet, the breadth of the roadway is 25 feet, and its greatest height from the foundation, which extends 15 feet below the bed of the river, is 57 feet. The arches, five in number, are elliptical, the span of each arch being 72 feet, and that of the piers 14. The singular elegance of this bridge is the more fortunate, as its situation renders it the most prominent object in some of the finest landscapes on the Tweed. Connecting two banks, each remarkable for beauty, it forms the eye of a vast variety of pictures, while by its breadth of mellow light it affords a striking contrast and relief to the dark colour of the wooded scenery on either side. This bridge forms the entrance to the town from the south; and few scenes are more imposing than that which opens upon the tourist as he descends from the opposite village of Maxwellheugh with the prospect beneath him of this fine architectural object, the majestic Tweed, the picturesque town and abbey, and the noble back ground of the castle, woods, and surrounding heights of Floors.

III.—POPULATION.

Former and present state.—No data exist for ascertaining the amount of the population, prior to the middle of last century. Since that time, there has been a slow but nearly constant increase, as appears from the following table of its amount, at successive periods from 1749.

| <i>Period.</i> | <i>Population.</i> |
|--|--------------------|
| 1749, - - - - | 2900 |
| 1755, - - - - | 2781 |
| 1793, - - - - | 4324 |
| 1801, - - - - | 4196 |
| 1806, - - - - | 4624 |
| 1811, - - - - | 4408 |
| 1816, - - - - | 4626 |
| 1821, - - - - | 4860 |
| 1831, - - - - | 4939 |
| 1835, - - - - | 5114 |
| Number of families in the parish, according to census of 1831, - - - | 1181 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - | 100 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, - - - | 431 |

Causes of Fluctuation.—The only remarkable increase indicated above, that of the thirty-eight years, from 1755 to 1793, receives a ready explanation from the change which was then in progress, from the system of small to that of large farms; a change which necessarily drove the petty farmers and labourers from the rural districts to the market-town. Two circumstances have tended, in recent times, to keep the ratio of increase below that of many

other places. The one is the constant drain upon the population, arising from the necessity under which a large proportion of the young men are laid off of repairing, in search of employment, to places where the market for labour is less limited. The other is the gradual and extensive removal from the neighbourhood, of resident gentry, whose expenditure gave employment to many industrious labourers, as well as encouragement to the retail trade of the town. It should be remarked, however, that both these sources of diminution are, to a small extent, counterbalanced by the influx of aged labourers and others, who are either driven* from the rural parishes when they cease to be fit for work, or attracted to Kelso by the hope of participating in its ample charities. Within a few years, also, a considerable accession has been made to the population by the increased resort to the town of a very undesirable class of persons, the *Gypsies*, who are now about as numerous in Kelso as in Yetholm, their prescriptive settlement; and who are not found, when transplanted to the crowded lanes of a town, to preserve that quiet and orderly demeanour which is said to characterize them in Yetholm, where they seem to feel that they have a character to support. It may be added, that late years have also witnessed the settlement among us of a few Irish; the gleanings of those immense annual swarms, whose successive emigrations threaten, if not speedily arrested, to lower and deteriorate, to an extent frightful to contemplate, the character and manners of the populace of this island. These occasional fluctuations in the aggregate population furnish but too accurate an exponent of the constant change which is taking place among the individuals composing it. Though a few Border-names keep their ground, from generation to generation, and thereby indicate that the mass is not without a few stationary particles, the great majority of the inhabitants may be regarded as "strangers in the land." The number of land-owners is far from considerable, who

* "Driven," though a strong term, is but too *aptly* applied in this instance. To prevent the aged and infirm becoming burdens on the poor rate, it is the practice of some of the heritors of purely landward parishes, to demolish every cottar-house, which is not absolutely necessary as accommodation for the needful complement of farm-labourers and country-artisans. In this way, infirm labourers and widows are compelled, the moment they cease to be available workers, to leave their parishes in despite of all the ties of local attachment which may bind them to the spot, and to take their chance of an uncertain livelihood among strangers and in the unhealthy lanes and closes of a town. It is astonishing that the aristocracy should be so blind to their own interest, not to say dead to the claims of humanity, as to incur, for the sake of a paltry economy, the hatred instead of the blessing of a class of worthy persons, to whom separation from the place of their fathers' sepulchres, is the greatest of calamities.

have had their properties transmitted to them for a lengthened period, in lineal descent, from father to son; and the pages of the parish register, as well as the humble monuments of the churchyard, bear witness to an equal fluctuation in the case of the middle and working classes. It is now as true of the borderers, at least of those of lower Teviotdale, as of the inhabitants of places less fitted to foster local attachment, that there is scarcely one man in fifty who, if he survives the age of manhood, is buried with his fathers.

Town Population.—The proportion of the town to the landward population is as six to one.

Marriages.—From the growing neglect of registration, the yearly average of births cannot be given. No record of deaths is kept. The average number of marriages for the last seven years is 34.

Nobility, &c.—There is one nobleman resident for part of the year, the Duke of Roxburghe. The number of families of independent fortune may be stated at 19; the number of proprietors of land of the annual value of L. 50 and upwards is 17.

Parliamentary Voters.—The number of persons on the roll as qualified voters for a Member of Parliament, is 269.

Language.—One peculiarity of the pronunciation of this district has been already noted,—the tendency to give to the dental sound of *ch* the sound of *sh*; as sheap for cheap. A second, is the habit of sounding the vowel *a* in a mode precisely the reverse of the English usage: Thus *wáter* (broad *a*) is uniformly pronounced *wáter* (long slender *a*) and *vice versa*. The mode of enunciating the pronoun of the first person is also peculiar. It is sounded as if it were written *aw*: a native Kelsonian does not say, “*I* saw it,” but “*Aw* saw it.” In truth, in all that respects language, the natives of this district may be said to be *Scotorum Scotissimi*. Though at the distance of only five miles from England, they speak the Scottish tongue in the most Doric of its forms; nor does there appear any prospect of a speedy improvement in this particular. It would indeed seem, that, in proportion as the two countries approach their respective confines, the Scotch and Anglican tongues, instead of gradually losing each its distinctive character so as, at the point of junction, to interblend and coalesce in a common dialect, assume each its harshest and most intractable form; as if for the purpose of keeping their respective *marches* clear and distinct. At least the fact is unquestionable that, all along the south side of the east marches, we have the Northum-

brian *burr* bristling, like a fence of thorns, to prevent the Scotch accent from penetrating into England ; whilst on the north side, the latter dialect assumes a breadth of guttural energy, which effectually protects "the ancient kingdom" against the inroads of the speech of the smother-tongued *Sassenachs*. Among the words peculiar to the Marches, the verb to *stoothe*, which signifies to lath-and-plaster, is worthy of being naturalized throughout the island, as expressing by a single term what is now done only by means of a circumlocution. That such a term should be in use on the border is the more remarkable, that the practice which it is designed to describe prevails less there than in any other part of the kingdom equally advanced in a taste for domestic comfort and elegance.

Popular Amusements, &c.—Though Kelso is less entitled than it once was to the name of the Melton of Scotland, it is still distinguished as a resort of the lover of field-sports. Whether fox-hunting, horse-racing, or the "occupation of the angle," be his favourite diversion, the sportsman has here facilities for pursuing it : there being a pack of fox-hounds in the vicinity, a beautiful race-course, and a river than which none affords better sport. Accordingly, though its races form no longer any considerable attraction, Kelso is still in vogue for fox-hunting and salmon-fishing ; and during several weeks of both the spring and autumn, parties of the nobility and gentry, often from the south of England, take up their residence in the town for the purpose of enjoying these sports. There is also a coursing-club in the parish, which is well supported : and once a year, the whipmen of the border turn out, —horse and rider gaily tricked out with ribbons and silken sashes, —to ride a race, which is the great delight of the rustics and school-boys, and which is now happily unaccompanied with the cruelties that in earlier times attended it.

Of the old border games, foot-ball* is the only one which is still a favourite. It is still the practice of the rector of the grammar school and of the other teachers in the town to present "the king," that is, the boy who makes the most liberal Candlemas offering, with a foot-ball, which becomes a source of amusement to the whole

* In early times, foot-ball matches were common between the inhabitants of adjacent parishes, or of the opposite banks of a stream ; and not only serious accidents, but sanguinary quarrels often rose out of them. Sir Robert Carey in his Memoirs, narrates that Kelso was the scene of a great meeting of Scotch riders, held ostensibly for the purpose of playing at foot-ball, but in reality with the view of concerting measures for a hostile incursion into England.

pupils for several weeks afterwards. The custom, formerly connected with this, of the scholars marching in procession through the town with a gilded ball on the top of a pole, has of late years fallen into desuetude.

Upon the whole, however, Kelso can hardly be classed among places noted for their popular games, at least in so far as the resident population are concerned. Except when a fine summer evening tempts a few apprentices to the knowes, to try a match at foot-ball or quoits, or a severe winter provides an ice-bound river for the use of the curlers, nothing of the nature of sport is to be seen among the people at large. The intoxication of political excitement has here, as elsewhere, tended to deaden the popular mind, as well to cheerful amusement, as to other matters of more vital importance. And it is to be lamented that, by reason of the long hours which a tradesman must work in order to provide the means of subsistence, there is a want of time, even when there is no lack of disposition, for these manly and healthful recreations. Is it not to the disgrace of this great and wealthy nation, that the bulk of the working-classes should require to spend so many hours of the day in toil as to have no leisure either for the culture of their minds, or for the improvement of that physical vigour which is almost essential to a cheerful and contented tone of mind?

In connexion with local customs, it may not be impertinent to rectify a mistake, to which the name of Sir Walter Scott has given currency, with respect to the usage called a "Kelso convoy." According to Sir Walter, this is a proverbial phrase of disparagement, which took its origin from the practice of the Kelsonians, who, less hospitable than the other borderers, "convoyed," or accompanied their departing guests no farther than the steps of their own threshold. Sir Walter's border lore is in this instance at fault. "A Kelso convoy," is not a shabby dismissal of a guest after attending him only to your door. The old Kelsonians did indeed finish the "convoy," by parting with their guest on the threshold; but then this parting did not take place until they had first hospitably convoyed him to *his* door, and been, in return for the compliment, reconvoyed by the latter to *their own*.

Physical Habits.—In respect of cleanliness, clothing, and general style and manner of living, the inhabitants,—the class of gypsies and the more improvident of the paupers excepted—are justly considered to surpass most rural populations. A taste for neatness of dress, well furnished houses, and other domestic com-

forts, is very general; nay is, in some instances, carried to excess. The men, even in the humblest rank, are for the most part well and substantially clothed—having a holiday, as well as a working day suit. The dress of the females is in all cases neat; that of female servants (in particular) showy to an extent that might be advantageously abated. Women of all classes, down to the scullion and the beggar, wear bonnets in the open air. The ordinary food of the peasantry is chiefly of meal, milk, and potatoes,—little butcher-meat being used except pork, and no fish except herrings. The bread employed is, in many instances, wheaten; but more usually, a mixture of pease and barley meal. If the fare of the working classes in the town is in many cases better than this, it is also in many cases worse; it being in the narrow lanes of the town that the most numerous instances of squalid penury and wretchedness occur.

General Character.—The moral character of a population of 5000 souls is, like their physical habits, necessarily various. But as a whole, the people are sober and industrious, amiable in the relations of life, and attentive to their religious duties. They are more polished in manners and respectful to all above them than persons of the same station in manufacturing towns, though perhaps somewhat inferior in acuteness of mind and extent of general information. Irregular marriages,* the bane of the working-classes, are believed to be on the decrease; so also is the proportion of illegitimate births: whilst the increase of benefit clubs and of savings-bank deposits indicates that, along with the abandonment of a worse, there is a return, on the part of the common people, to a better course of feeling and conduct. Among the most marked characteristics of all classes, especially the higher, may be specified, beneficence to the poor, a large spirit of hospitality, and a strong feeling of local attachment. This last mentioned quality, in particular, seems quite indigenous. It is difficult to persuade a native that there is any town prettier than

* Coldstream-bridge is the place where these marriages are generally performed. The person who officiates on these occasions is at present a bankrupt tradesman. His predecessor, Peter Mudie, was in the habit of granting the parties who appeared before him a certificate, bearing that they were "legally and lawfully married" by him; and further containing his own signature with the addendum of V. D. M. It was at one time the practice in some of the border parishes, for the kirk-session, before absolving defaulters in this way, to require them to be *proclaimed* and re-married. The usual practice now is, to make them acknowledge their marriage and irregularity in presence of the session, and, on evidence of their penitence, to restore them to privileges. Proclamation dues, however, are still in all such cases, exacted by the session clerk.

Kelso : and probably few Kelsonians ever so far forget their filial love to their birth-place, even when by circumstances entirely separated from it, as not to connect it in their day dreams of the future with the fond aspiration, " Sit mihi sedes utinam senectæ."

IV.—INDUSTRY.

As might be expected in a parish situate in the centre of a purely agricultural district, the chief branches of industry are either agricultural labour, or those departments of the retail trade and of handicraft which lean upon agriculture. One or two manufactures, carried on with a view to a distant market, such as the currying of leather, and the making of coarse woollen cloth, employ a few hands ; but the great bulk of the people are employed in the preparation or retail of articles consumed in the district, and consist, as in other country towns, chiefly of labourers, shoemakers, bakers, butchers, cabinet-makers, carpenters, masons, &c. The most numerous class of retail-shops are those of grocers and drapers. The number of members of the learned professions is 25 ; there being 6 ministers of the gospel, 8 medical practitioners, and 11 writers, exclusive of apprentices and clerks.

Agriculture—Tillage and Pasture.—The total number of acres in the parish, standard imperial measure, is estimated at 4400. The whole may be said to be either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, with the exception of the lawn at Floors, part of Springwood Park, and the Race-ground, recently reclaimed from a morass, and now forming a valuable piece of pasture land. Even the first of these has recently come under the operation of the plough, though of course only with a view to its eventual productiveness and beauty, as permanent pasture.

| | |
|--|------|
| The total number of acres <i>properly</i> in tillage, is about | 3800 |
| in permanent pasture, | 300 |

There are no waste lands nor undivided common.

Wood.—The number of acres strictly under wood, that is, in inclosed plantations, is about 215. But besides the plantations, there is, especially in the parks of Floors and Springwood, and in the planted dells of Pinnacle-hill and Wooden, a vast amount of fine timber which cannot be estimated *in acres*, being upon land under grass, or upon steep and broken ground ; to which must be added the hedge-row trees with which the parish, particularly on the south of the Tweed, is richly ornamented. The older wood consists, in great part, of oak, beech and ash ; in the young woods, fir predominates ; but here also the harder timber is the growth chiefly aimed at, the firs being put in as nurses. The great bulk

being either old or very young wood, no opportunity is at present afforded for following any specific rule in management, with regard to thinning, felling, pruning, and the like.

Rent of Arable Land.—The rent of land varies greatly in different parts of the parish. This is due partly to difference of soil, and partly to greater or less vicinity to the town. Whilst the northern section of the parish consists of a rich black loam with a subsoil of gravel, and lies close around the town, the southern portion is both inferior, generally speaking, in quality, and of less value, as being more distant and cut off from free access to the town, by the pontage on the Tweed. Accordingly, the annual rent of land on the north side of the river varies from L. 5 to L. 2, 10s. while that on the south takes the lower range of from L. 3 to 7s. The average of the whole may be stated at L. 2, 5s.

Rent of Grazing.—The average rent for grazing a full-grown ox or cow is, L. 4 to L. 4, 10s.; and for each ewe or sheep, these being here of a large description, 10s.

Rate of Labour.—Masons and joiners receive from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day; farm-labourers from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. Spade labour upon farms is for the most part performed by contract or piece-work; in which way a good labourer frequently earns from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. Ploughmen (in this parish generally married persons) are engaged by the year, and receive as follows: in cash, L. 3, 10s.; 10 bolls oats, which may be estimated at L. 9; 3 bolls barley, L. 3, 6s.; 1 boll pease, L. 1, 8s.; cow's grass and winter keep, L. 6; potatoes planted, L. 1, 10s.; coals driven, L. 2, 10s.; L. 27, 4s. The ploughman is furnished with a house on the farm; but for this he provides a labourer in harvest, (very often his wife,) generally estimated at L. 2; and he is also taken bound, in virtue of the above allowances, to maintain a female-labourer, (distinguished on the marches by the name of a *bondager*,) for whose services, when employed, he receives from 8d. to 10d. per day.

Stock.—The usual breed of *sheep* reared and grazed in the parish is that known as the improved Leicester, for which the surrounding district is famous. The *cattle* most common are of the short-horned or Teeswater breed.

Husbandry.—The system of agriculture pursued is necessarily various in a parish where there are so many, great and small, as seventeen farms with homesteads, besides a number of smaller possessions occupied by cowfeeders, carters, and the like. The sys-

tem, however, in general application, is that of the four and five-shift courses, the former predominating. Except upon those lands (to the south of the Tweed) which rest upon a retentive subsoil, turnips or potatoes in limited quantity, are taken as a fallow crop; this is followed by wheat or barley, sown down with grass-seeds; and when these grasses are taken up at the end of one or two years, as the case may be, an oat crop follows; no manure being applied in the course of the rotation to any but the turnip crop or fallow. The manures generally employed are, besides common manure, lime and bone-dust. The average quantity of lime used annually is estimated at 843 tons; the average quantity of bone-dust, 25 tons. As regards the improvements of which the husbandry is susceptible, nothing very specific can be stated. The rich loam on the north of the Tweed, as also the lands on the south, which are upon a dry subsoil, are in the highest state of cultivation, and seemingly incapable of any additional improvement beyond what judicious management, and the application of suitable manures, never fail to produce. But much of the wet and tilly soil in the southern section of the parish is, doubtless, notwithstanding the great and beneficial change which its present enterprising occupants have of late years wrought upon it, still susceptible of extensive amelioration from a more thorough application of draining and similar essential operations.

Leases.—The general duration of leases is nineteen or twenty-one years. The only exception is in the case of small enclosures and crofts in the immediate vicinity of the town, which are let, for the most part, for a double rotation of crops.

Farm-buildings, &c.—The farm-buildings are generally substantial; in a few instances, tasteful and elegant. The implements of husbandry are likewise in accordance with the latest improvements. On one large farm, Spylaw, steam is employed as a moving power in the operations of thrashing, &c. The whole parish is enclosed and subdivided into fields, generally by hedges, which, from the practice of regularly cutting them with a bill, give the face of the country a garden-like appearance. Where the fences are of stone, the walls are well-built, and sometimes coped with rubble-work. Altogether, the state of the parish, in reference to agriculture, may be justly described as worthy of a district, which has always kept pace with the rapid strides made by the country at large in this department of national industry, and which has long had the good for-

tune to possess a body of tenantry distinguished alike by their intelligence, enterprize, and capital.

Fisheries.—The salmon-fisheries on this part of the Tweed have existed from a very remote period. At the foundation of the Abbey of Kelso, King David gave them to the monks, who seem to have carefully protected them; though not more carefully than the land-owners whose property they became when the monastery was dissolved. The Kelso fishery yields an annual rent to the Duke of Roxburghe of L. 30; but this amount of rent is due less to the actual value of the produce, than to the income which the tacksman derives from hiring out his boats, &c. to amateur sportsmen. The fish caught here are not sent beyond the Kelso market, which, indeed, consumes more than this fishery is adequate to supply. The fisheries on the Tweed are under the protection of commissioners and overseers, appointed by act of Parliament, with whom it lies to appoint head and under water bailiffs for the different districts of the river. The river is open for salmon-fishing from 15th February to 7th November.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised is estimated as under :

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Potatoes and turnips. | - | - | - | - | - | - | L. 3,900 |
| Grain of all kinds, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11,560 |
| Hay, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 920 |
| Pasture, including permanent grass in parks, &c. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,150 |
| Gardens and orchards, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 750 |
| Fisheries, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 |
| | | | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | | | L. 19,390 |

Manufactures.—It has been already stated that the manufactures of the parish are very limited. Though the number of branches is considerable, including the manufacture of leather, woollen-cloth, tobacco, the weaving of linen, stocking-making, and the making of hats, they do not give employment conjointly to more than 150 workmen; nor, if we except the currying trade, which is carried on by one house very extensively, does any of them seem to be advancing. Some of them, as weaving and stocking-making, have indeed all but disappeared from the place.

Associations.—Though there are no parochial societies for the encouragement of any branch of industry, Kelso has the benefit of several local associations of this description, which hold their meetings and exhibitions in the town. Among these, the Union Agricultural Society is worthy of notice, from the stimulus it has given to the improvement of stock, agricultural implements, &c.

on the border. It has a monthly exhibition of cattle, sheep, seed-corn, &c.; encourages ploughing matches; offers prizes for mechanical inventions connected with agriculture; and numbers among its patrons and members all the leading landholders and farmers in Teviotdale, Berwickshire, and Northumberland.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town, &c.—Kelso is the market-town of the district as well as of the parish. It contains a population of about 4200, who, as formerly stated, are employed chiefly in the ordinary branches of retail and handicraft.* It has a daily market for butcher-meat, fish, and vegetables; a weekly corn market; and a monthly cattle and sheep-market. There are four bank agencies, and numerous handsome shops. The principal transactions are those connected with the trade in corn, and the sale of stock; and it is worthy of remark, that the business of the corn-market is carried on in the most primitive and inartificial manner, without bills, and even without accounts;—it being the practice for the purchaser to make payment in cash on the market day immediately following that of the stipulated delivery of the article.

Municipal Constitution.—Kelso is a burgh of barony; but the *sett* is so peculiar as to justify us in here preserving some record of an ancient institute which the progress of municipal law will soon sweep away.

Prior to the Reformation, the different lands and manors belonging to the abbey formed a regality, over which the abbot exercised the authority of a feudal baron. On the abolition of monachism, the jurisdiction fell into the crown. But it was ultimately transferred, under the title of the Lordship and Barony of Hallydean, to Kerr of Cessford—the first peer of the house of Roxburghe. This transference took place in 1607; and in 1634, Kelso, previously included in the lordship of Hallydean, was separated and created into a free burgh of barony. The charter of creation gives power to the superior and his heirs-male, in all time coming, to “receive and admit free burgesses,”—to appoint “bailies, clerks, officers, and other members necessary for the

* Honourable mention is made in the former *Statistical Account* of an ingenious optician, John Gibson, who then carried on a considerable trade in Kelso, especially in telescopes. There is now no artisan of this description. But there is at present an ingenious person who does a great deal of work in a line to the full as unusual in small country towns as that of making spy-glasses. This is Mr Heckford, a bird-stuffer, whose performances, as seen in the Duke of Roxburghe's cabinet of natural history, and in the museum of the Kelso Antiquarian Society, will bear a comparison with those of the best London artists.

government of the burgh ;"—to " hold a weekly public market and two free fairs yearly for the space of eight days ;"—to " receive and uplift the customs and duties thereof, and apply the same to the common good of the burgh ;"—and in general to " establish such regulations as may be most conducive to the general good of the town and its inhabitants, the advancement of trade, and the encouragement of manufactures therein." The town seems to have been incorporated, and baron-bailies appointed from the date of the charter ; but there is no formal *sett* extant of older date than 1757, ten years after hereditary jurisdictions were abolished ; a *sett* which, with a few modifications established by long practice, forms the constitution under which the town is still governed.

According to these regulations, the powers invested by the charter in the feudal lord are delegated after a manner specifically defined, to his bailie, certain corporate bodies, and fifteen stent-masters. There are seven corporate bodies, the Merchant Company, and the six crafts of Skinners, Weavers, Tailors, Shoemakers, Hammermen, and Fleshers. To these bodies is delegated the right of admitting freemen, and of preventing persons who do not pay the expense of entry, and otherwise conform to the rules, from carrying on business in the burgh ; and they are also empowered to elect each their respective preses or deacons. The powers vested in the stent-masters have an exclusive reference to the administration of the funds of the burgh, and, in particular, to the levying and disbursement of a stent or tax, which is applied to the repairing of the streets and other burghal expenses. This tax they impose on the inhabitants according to the rentals of their properties, and the supposed value of their trades ; but before levying it, the preliminary step must be gone through of presenting an estimate of the probable expenditure for the ensuing year to the bailie, whose approval and warrant are essential to enable the stent-masters to collect the stent, and with whom also it lies to judge of and determine all claims from exemption, as well as all appeals against the amount of stent imposed. These stent-masters are fifteen in number, of whom eight are nominated by the bailie ; the remaining seven consist of the preses for the time being of the Merchant Company and the deacons of the six crafts ; and they have power, in their collective capacity, to elect from their own number a preses and treasurer, and also to choose their own clerk and quarter-master. The principal officer, however, under

this constitution is the baron-bailie, who is the superior's deputy, and invested, during the pleasure of the latter, with the power of his principal. Besides the power of controlling the proceedings of the stent-masters already described, he has a right, whenever he thinks fit, to require them to exhibit their accounts. He is also the judge of all cases of dispute between the corporations and claimants for entry. In addition to which, he holds a weekly court within burgh as a magistrate, for the decision of civil cases, when the sum in dispute does not exceed L. 2, and of criminal actions of assault, battery, or petty theft, punishable by a fine not exceeding L. 1. He gives judgment also in possessory actions and sequestrations for rent, though his jurisdiction in such cases is founded upon prescriptive usage rather than on any express instruction in his commission; and he is likewise expected "to take a general superintendence in all matters of police."

Such is an outline of this somewhat peculiar and anomalous constitution. With respect to its actual working, it is not necessary to enter into detail. The right of nominating a majority of the stent-masters, and also of controlling all their acts, invests the bailie with a power which, in the hands of an indiscreet man, might be prostituted to oppressive ends, and which is in principle opposed to the genius of modern institutions. Yet in practice, the system has never occasioned complaint,—while the progressive improvement of the town in all that relates to lighting, cleaning, supply of water, and general neatness, affords evidence that the unrestricted control of the town's funds vested in the bailie and stent-masters has not been abused. In fact, where evil has arisen to the community, it has been from the defectiveness of the bailie's power, not from its excess. There is no provision for defraying the expense of a body of police; nor is the magistrate invested with those summary powers which are essential to the immediate punishment and prevention of crime. The want of an effective police is, accordingly, much felt; and though the bailie does keep one police officer, (partly at his own cost,) and is ever ready to interpose his authority in order to check riotous disturbances, the amount of disorderly conduct in general, and of juvenile delinquency in particular, is not on the decrease. All experience proves that it is in such towns as Kelso that most of the offences tried in counties arise; and there can be no doubt, that were the magistrates of such burghs invested at once with a summary jurisdiction over petty offences, and with a sufficient executive, it would be in their

power, in very many instances, to crush crime in the bud, to arrest juvenile offenders at their outset on the path to ruin, and thus not only to secure the prosperity and peace of the community, but to effect a material saving in the expenditure now necessary for the prosecution of offences before higher tribunals.

Town's Funds.—The annual income of the burgh may be stated at about L. 500. Its principal sources are: the stent on the inhabitants already described; the proceeds of a tax on ale; the price obtained for fullzie; the rent of a machine for weighing coals; and the interest of a sum invested on Kelso Bridge.*

Villages.—The only village in the parish is Maxwell-heugh, which stands on a heugh or eminence on the south of the Tweed, directly opposite to the eastern part of the town. It contains about 100 inhabitants, and is a place of great antiquity. The Earl of Morton had a residence there in the time of Elizabeth.

Means of Communication.—There are two post-office deliveries daily; one when the bag from the south, and another when the bag from the north arrives. No mail-coach passes through Kelso; but letter-carts or gigs regularly convey the bags to and from Hawick, where the mail passes. Turnpike roads, to the extent of twelve miles, intersect the parish, and connect it with all the surrounding towns, the principal being a branch of the great north road,

* The following account of receipts and disbursements for a single year, as given in evidence before the burgh commissioners, will give a better idea both of the revenues of the burgh, and of the purposes to which they are applied, than any description; though it is but fair to premise, that the items of "cleaning streets" and "tradesmen's accounts" are considerably above the average expenditure under these heads, in consequence of additional expenses arising in the year referred to, out of the prevalence of cholera, &c.

| Income from Whitsunday 1831 to Whitsunday 1832. | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Interest on L. 250 vested on Kelso Bridge, | L. 25 | 0 0 |
| Tax of 2d. Scots on pint of ale, | 50 | 1 11 |
| Stent imposed on the inhabitants, | 269 | 11 6 |
| Rent of machine for weighing coals, | 25 | 0 0 |
| Proceeds of dung collected in cleaning streets, | 132 | 5 0 |
| Allowance from the trustees of the Lauder turnpike for repair of one of the streets, | 10 | 0 0 |
| Rent of jailor's house, | 2 | 0 0 |
| | L. 562 | 9 8 |
| Expenditure. | | |
| Salaries of officers, | L. 24 | 19 6 |
| Expense of lighting streets with gas, | 76 | 5 10 |
| cleaning streets, | 349 | 8 2 |
| mending streets, | 34 | 7 11 |
| Tradesmen's accounts for repairing property, | 138 | 13 5½ |
| Interest of debt, | 26 | 3 4 |
| Expense of police, | 21 | 0 0 |
| | L. 670 | 18 2½ |

via Newcastle, to London. Stage-coaches run daily between Kelso and Edinburgh ; three times a-week between Kelso and Berwick ; and between Kelso and Hawick, taking Jedburgh on the way, twice a-week : There is also direct access daily to Newcastle and the south by a coach, which runs between Edinburgh and Newcastle. The means of conveying heavy goods, &c. by carriers and waggons are ample ; there being 45 of these who come and go from Kelso weekly. The bridges are numerous, and constructed on the most approved principles of the art ; those across the Tweed and the Teviot, in particular, may vie with any similar works in the kingdom. The Kelso and Berwick railroad, from which such extensive benefits were long anticipated to Tweedside and Teviotdale, has existed for the last twenty years in an act of Parliament, and in the pages of *The Travellers' Guide* : Why it does not yet exist in any more tangible and useful shape, and seems never likely to do so, is best known to the shareholders, who, judged from their past proceedings, appear to have been incorporated for the purpose of defeating, not of carrying into effect, the provisions of an act of Parliament.

Ecclesiastical State.—Parish Church.—The present church was erected in 1773, and is a commodious and conveniently situated, though somewhat inelegant building. In external shape, it is a regular octagon, flanked by two ample porches, which abut from the north and south sides ; and it is surmounted by an immense roof of blue slate, tapering to a point somewhat after the fashion of a *marquée*, and supported by a circle of eight pillars within the building. Its internal figure was also octagonal up to 1823, when, with the view of improving it as a place of hearing, an alteration was made, which at once deranged its internal symmetry and diminished its area to the extent of 1153 feet. The loss of accommodation thus incurred was in a good measure compensated in 1833 by seating a passage which ran round the lower area of the church. But it is to be lamented that, instead of thus contenting themselves with a limited repair, the heritors had not, in 1823, adopted a plan of improving the church, furnished by Mr Gillespie Graham, which would have augmented, instead of curtailing the accommodation, and cost only from L. 1100 to L. 1200 more than the alterations actually executed. The two principal heritors, on whom conjointly would have fallen nearly two-thirds of the whole expense, were in favour of the rejected plan, and were willing, besides, to contribute their proportion towards build-

ing a church-spire, which is much wanted in a parish where there is no place for suspending bells ; but their liberal design was overruled by the opposition of the smaller heritors, who, for the paltry saving of L. 420, the whole sum which the execution of Mr Graham's plan would have cost them, resisted an improvement which would have been of great and permanent advantage to the parish and the public.

The church is seated to contain 1314 ; but in consequence of the polygonal shape of many of the pews, the number which it actually accommodates is under 1300. The whole sittings are allocated to the landward heritors, with the exception of those set apart for the minister, session, schoolmaster, and choir, and 187, which have been allotted to the incorporated trades, in consideration of a contribution made by them towards seating the church. The inhabitants of the town, though forming five-sixths of the whole parishioners, have, with this exception, no right to sittings other than the good will of heritors, who happen to have more church-room than is necessary for the occupants of their land. Yet this disadvantage is less felt than might be expected, in consequence of the liberality of the only land-owner having a surplusage of church-room, the Duke of Roxburghe, who has of late years delegated to the kirk-session the power of assigning his surplus seats—about one-third of the church, to the people of the town.

Manse.—The manse was built in 1801, and extensively repaired at the entry of the present incumbent in 1832. It is a large and commodious house ; and beautifully situate on an open space of ground between the town and the Tweed,—having the abbey immediately behind it, and the glebe bounded by one of the very finest portions of the river, in front.

Glebe.—The glebe is understood to contain about six acres, exclusive of the site of the manse, the manse garden, and a portion let as a wood-yard. Its value, including all these pertinents, together with an annual allowance of L. 4, 15s. from the trustees of Kelso-Bridge, in lieu of a part cut off by the approach to the bridge, may be estimated at from L. 50 to L. 60. There is no grass glebe ; but the minister has a prescriptive right to the grass of a plot of meadow called the Knowes, which adjoins the church-yard, and originally formed part of the ground used as *butts* for archery. From this right he has, however, of late years derived no benefit ; as the Knowes have become the play-ground

of the grammar school, as well as the chief resort (in virtue of his written sanction) for the stated exhibitions of agricultural stock, &c.

Stipend.—The stipend is 51 bolls of oatmeal and 56 bolls of bear, with L. 198, 2s. 5d. in money. The Court of teinds awarded, in their first scheme of locality, a stipend larger than this by about L. 70; but the above is all that the teinds, when surrendered, were found to yield. Nor would the stipend have reached its present amount, had not the proprietor of the lands of Maisondieu, originally hospital lands, and, as such, supposed to be exempt from teind—failed to prove that they had been feued *cum decimis inclusis et nunquam antea separatis*, previously to the act of annexation in 1587. These lands having been left *unvalued*, the court found that they were liable to pay one-fifth of their real rent as stipend.

Divine Service, &c.—In the parish church, divine service is performed twice every Sunday throughout the year. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered twice a-year, viz. on the last Sundays of February and July. The number of elders, each of whom superintends a defined section of the parish, is at present 8. The number of communicants is about 1200.

Additional Church.—A deficiency of church-room in connexion with the Establishment has recently been supplied by the erection of a second church. This church, which is just completed, is situate on the north-side of the town, in a field which, from its elevation and exposure, renders the building, with its elegant Gothic tower, one of the most prominent objects in the scenery of Kelso. Besides a church capable of accommodating 800 persons, there is a suite of spacious school-rooms, which form the ground-floor of the building, and are designed for the use of an infant and juvenile school; while the surrounding field is fitted up as a play-ground for the scholars, or tastefully laid out as a *pleasance* to the church. By the constitution granted by the General Assembly, it is provided that, on the settlement of a minister, a section of the town and suburbs shall be disjoined from the original parish *quoad spiritualia*, and assigned to the new church as a parish ecclesiastical; and that for the better accommodation of the poorer classes, one-half of the whole church-room shall be let at an annual rate not exceeding 3s. a sitting. The appointment of the minister is to rest, during the infancy of the congregation, with four individuals named in the constitution; but it is ultimately to devolve on the kirk-session and male communicants;—the for-

mer enjoying the right of nominating the candidates (not less than four,) from whom the latter are to elect the minister. A bond for a stipend of L. 80 must be lodged with the presbytery before a minister can be inducted ; but the stipend is not to be limited to the sum secured by bond, if the seat-rents and collections, the only sources of revenue provided for in the constitution, afford a larger income. For an addition to its ecclesiastical and educational edifices, which has not been completed under a cost (fabric and site included) of less than L. 3460, Kelso is mainly indebted to a native of the parish,—Mr James Nisbet, Berners' Street, London, with whom the design originated, and by whose munificence chiefly it has been carried into execution. The splendid donation of L. 1500 to the object forms only one item of the amount of this gentleman's benefits to the new church and parish. Among the benevolent persons who have co-operated with Mr Nisbet, a prominent place is due to three of the elders—Mr John Henderson, Mr Robert Williamson, and Mr Alexander Leadbetter, who, besides their liberal donations to the funds, have devoted much time and labour to the superintendence of the work. The Duke of Buccleuch, Mr Alderman Pirie, and Alexander Gordon, Esq. of London, ought also to be mentioned as large contributors. And it would be unjust to the parishioners generally to withhold the fact, that their united contributions directly to the object have amounted to L. 508.*

Religious Denominations.—Besides the Established Church, there are five other religious bodies which have places of worship in the town, viz. the Episcopal Communion, the Reformed Presbyterians, the Original Seceders, the United Secession, and the Relief. The Methodists and Quakers, mentioned in the former Account, have disappeared, though the latter body still retain the right to use their former meeting-house for religious purposes. An Episcopal congregation has existed in Kelso from the time of the Revolution. The present meeting house of the Original Seceders was erected in 1772 ; that of the United Secession in 1787 ; that of the Relief, originally an off-shoot from the last-mentioned congregation, in 1792. The ministers of all these bodies are paid

* Although the new church and schools are now open, a minister and teacher appointed, and a new parish ecclesiastical allocated, (the church was opened on 26th November 1837,) no account is given in this paper of the changes which are being introduced into the parish by the new parochial arrangements. Indeed, considering the necessarily immature state of arrangements so recently commenced, this would have been scarcely practicable, even had it not been wholly precluded by the circumstance, that the materials embodied in the present account were chiefly collected in 1836.

from the proceeds of seat rents and collections, with the exception of the Episcopal clergyman, whose stipend is derived from a voluntary assessment upon the members of the congregation. All of them, with the same exception, have manse. Their stipends vary, with the numbers and wealth of the congregations, from L. 200 to L. 50, and are, so far as has been ascertained, as follows : minister of United Secession, L. 200 ; minister of the Relief, L. 150 ; minister of the Original Seceders, L. 50. As respects the time and diets of public worship, &c. the Dissenters follow nearly the same rule as the Established Church. There is divine service, generally speaking, every Lord's day, as also two distinct diets, excepting during the winter half-year, when a double diet without any interval is adopted. The Lord's Supper is likewise dispensed in the two most numerous congregations on the same days as in the Established Church ; and in the others it is dispensed with equal frequency, though not generally at the same times. The United Secession and Relief congregations number among their members many persons of great respectability in point of wealth as well as character, and the Sabbath attendance is not only respectable but numerous, considering the distances which many of the members have to travel. One of them—the United Secession, is composed of persons collected from so many as thirteen parishes.

The following table exhibits the accommodation of the various places of worship, together with the number of persons in the parish of all ages connected with each denomination respectively, as ascertained by a census taken in 1835 :

| <i>Denomination.</i> | <i>Accommodation.</i> | <i>No. of Persons.</i> |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Established Church, | 1314 | 2631 |
| Episcopalians, | 218 | 153 |
| Reformed Presbyterians, | 320 | 66 |
| Original Seceders, | 600 | 30 |
| United Secession, | 955 | 1034 |
| Relief, | 778 | 598 |
| Not known to belong to any denomination, | | 602 |

Religious Societies.—The societies established for the purposes of Christian charity are, the Kelso Bible Society, (which gives the most of its funds to the Edinburgh Bible Society,) the Kelso Missionary Society, (auxiliary to the Scottish Missionary Society,) the parish Society for the spread of the Gospel, (its funds have been applied to the support of a parochial missionary,)—and the Society for the Missions of the United Secession Church. The first two are supported by Christians of various denominations ; the last two, as their designations import, by members of the Estab-

blished Church, and of the United Secession respectively. The average income of each society may be rated as follows ; Bible Society, L. 98 ; Missionary Society, L. 13 ; Parish Society, L. 60 ; Secession Missions, L. 65. The sums raised by these societies do not exhaust the contributions of the parish to missionary and religious purposes. Various stated and occasional collections, both in the Established and Dissenting churches, fall to be added, especially the annual collections in the former, in aid of the four missionary schemes of the General Assembly, which have hitherto averaged upwards of L. 50.

Education—Schools.—The total number of week-day schools is 10 ; viz. a grammar school and an English school, both parochial ; a side-school for the southern division of the parish, provided with school room and schoolmaster's house, at the expense of two of the heritors ; the Roxburghe school (for girls,) taught by a female, and similarly provided at the charge of the Duke of Roxburghe ; the Friendly school, supported by an educational society ; and five private schools, undertaken on the adventure of the masters. There are also two boarding-schools for young ladies, as likewise a similar institution for young gentlemen, kept by the rector of the grammar school.

Branches taught.—The branches generally taught in these schools are the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic. In the Roxburghe school, the girls are taught sewing along with the ordinary branches. In the grammar-school, the Latin and Greek classics are taught together with French, geography and mathematics ; whilst in the ladies' seminaries the ornamental branches of education, as music, drawing, &c. may be acquired in addition to the elementary. Though several of the teachers are persons of liberal education, the modes of tuition generally followed do not differ materially from those which have been in use for the last forty years ; nor in the instances in which the analytical system has been introduced, does there exist any very flattering prospect of its permanent adoption. The emoluments of most of the schools are so slender that well qualified teachers remain in them only till they can obtain better appointments, and it often happens that a teacher versant in the modern improvements of his art is succeeded by one who is but slenderly, or not at all acquainted with them.

Emoluments.—The rector of the grammar-school is the only teacher who has the maximum salary and the legal accommoda-

tion. The English master has no house, and, excepting a salary of L. 5, 11s. 1d. paid in equal parts by the heritors and burgh, and the interest of a mortification of L. 240, as a remuneration for teaching poor scholars recommended by the kirk-session, is dependent exclusively upon school fees. The only other teachers who have salaries are the mistress of the Roxburghe School, who has an income secured to her (including school fees) of L. 24; and the master of the Friendly School, who is in like manner guaranteed, whatever sum is necessary to supplement the penny-a-week fees of the children up to L. 40. The unendowed teachers are understood to have their school-wages but indifferently paid; nor probably does the most popular of them, after deducting school-rent, realize an annual income exceeding L. 50.

School Fees.—The school fees charged at the grammar school are, for the classics, 10s. per quarter, and for mathematics, 10s. 6d.; at the parochial English school for reading, 3s. 6d.; writing, 4s. 6d.; arithmetic, 6s. 6d.; at the private schools for reading, 3s.; writing, 4s.; arithmetic, 5s.; practical mathematics, 7s. 6d.; at the Roxburghe and Friendly Schools, reading, writing, and arithmetic, 1d. per week.

Decreasing desire for Education.—There are probably few persons in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who cannot partially read and write. Yet the state of school attendance, during the last few years, is far from indicating a very lively desire on the part of the commonalty for the benefits of education. Not only has there been a gradual falling off in the number of classical pupils,—unhappily common to this district with the whole country, but the average attendance on the English schools exhibits a progressive decrease. In 1833, the total number of pupils in attendance on all the schools of the parish, boarding-schools included, was 725. In 1834, the number had increased to 765; but in 1835 it was only 690; while in 1836 another diminution had taken place, the number being 664. Part of this deficiency is no doubt explained, though but a small part, by a growing practice among the wealthier classes, of having their children taught at home by masters who come in for a few hours daily; and something may be also due to the increasing poverty of many of the people, as well as to the notion not yet obsolete, that a mere ability to read and write constitutes education, and that, consequently, the merest scantling of school instruction will suffice. But these causes do not account for the whole evil. A growing in-

difference to the value of early education lies, it is to be feared, at the root of the evil—an indifference strengthened by the loss of self-respect, which a habit of asking and taking indiscriminate charity engenders, and not dispelled by the spectacle of the salutary working of a thoroughly enlightened and energetic system of tuition. It is to be hoped that the infant and juvenile schools connected with the new church will be conducted in a manner fitted at once to enlighten the popular mind on the subject of education, and arrest that tendency to apathy with regard to its benefits now too palpably discernible. Yet considering how difficult it is to raise by voluntary contribution, an adequate and regular provision for competent teachers, the philanthropist cannot be sanguine of much amelioration, until clearer symptoms display themselves of a disposition on the part of the legislature to make liberal provision both for normal and primary schools.

Sunday Schools.—Besides the week-day, there are 6 Sunday schools;—4 connected with the Established Church, and 2 belonging to the Secession and Relief congregations respectively. Originally there was but one school, attended by children of all denominations, which was held first in the parish Church, and afterwards removed to the Secession meeting-house; but for many years past, the division into Church and Dissenting schools has obtained, as also that of the former, into male and female schools. The average number of Sunday scholars may be stated at 500, of which 300 belong to the Church, and 200 to the Dissenters. By far the most important of these schools, in point both of numbers and efficiency, is the girls' school conducted by ladies, members of the Establishment. Under the head of Sunday schools may be enumerated, though they meet on a week-day evening, two weekly classes, connected with the parochial congregation, one, a class of candidates for admission to the Lord's Supper, the other, a normal class of Sunday-school teachers.

Literature—Libraries.—Kelso is rich in libraries. The principal of these, "the Kelso Library," has existed since 1750, and now contains a collection of about 5000 volumes, including many standard English works in all departments of literature. In common with the commodious building in which it is kept, it is the property of about seventy shareholders, by whose subscriptions it is supported, and to whom the books are accessible. "The New Library," and "The Modern Library" are also the property of joint-stock companies. They were founded in 1778 and 1800, and

already contain about 2000 and 1500 volumes respectively, chiefly of modern works. There is also a Sunday school library connected with the Established Church; a congregational library belonging to the Relief Church; besides three sections of the East Lothian Itinerating Libraries, which were lately introduced for the use of the working classes, principally through the exertions of the present minister of the United Secession congregation. In connexion with libraries may be mentioned a Book-club, consisting of twenty-four members, (some of them extra-parochial,) who contribute each a guinea annually for the purchase of books, which are circulated among the members, and sold at the end of the year,—the proceeds of the sale going to augment the means of purchasing books. This Club has existed for many years; and has very materially contributed, both by the kind of works it has circulated, and by the intercourse it has kept up among the members—to maintain a taste for literature in the town and neighbourhood.

Scientific Societies.—"The school of arts," which gave rise to some interesting courses of lectures on chemistry and mathematics from 1825 to 1828, is no longer in existence. But the basis of a scientific institution, destined, it is hoped, to be longer-lived, has recently been laid in the "Kelso Physical and Antiquarian Society," which, though its object is restricted, in the meantime, to the formation of a museum of natural history and antiquities, may perhaps ere long turn the collection to some useful purpose, by ingrafting upon it a lecture or demonstration on some subject of philosophical or historical interest. The name of the eminent person at the head of the society, Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, Bart. may be regarded as a pledge that something more is eventually contemplated than a mere repository of archæological relics and physical rarities; while the eminent success which has attended their labours in this, the preliminary department, ought, doubtless, to encourage the directors to adventure on an attempt to compass the ulterior object also.

Reading-Rooms.—There are two reading-rooms for newspapers in the town; one of considerable standing, belonging to a select society of gentlemen; and one, of recent date, open to all who pay the annual subscription. It is to the honour of the latter that, by an express regulation, it is shut on the Lord's day.

Newspapers, &c.—The "Kelso Mail" and the "Kelso Chronicle" newspapers are printed and published in Kelso, the former twice, the latter once a-week. The "Chronicle" was esta-

blished for the advocacy of political reform in 1832: the "Mail," a Conservative journal, has existed since 1797, having been projected and, for a time, conducted by the late Mr James Ballantyne, who commenced in Kelso his career as a printer. Various newspapers and other periodical works have issued from the Kelso press since 1783, when "the Kelso Chronicle," the first newspaper in the south of Scotland, was commenced; but, with the exception of that journal, which lasted for eighteen years, and another newspaper, the "Kelso Weekly Journal," which existed from 1808 to 1829, none of them have been successful. It is creditable, however, to the literary enterprize of the place, that so many attempts have been made: and it will ever serve to connect the name of Kelso with literature, that its press produced the first edition of "The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border."

Charitable and Economic Institutions—Dispensary.—The oldest of our charitable institutions is the Kelso Dispensary, which was established in 1777, for the benefit of the sick poor of the town and district, principally through the philanthropic exertions of the late Hon. Mrs Baillie of Mellerstain and the late Dr C. Douglas of Kelso. This institution is supported by voluntary contributions; its accumulated capital, however, being now at length so considerable as to make it independent of any very large amount of annual subscriptions. Patients are, under certain limitations, visited at their own houses, by the surgeons of the institution; and, in the institution-house, there are both wards for fever patients, and rooms for the performance of surgical operations; to which have recently been added water and vapour baths, accessible, at a specified charge, to the public generally. The following table (which, with the valuable explanatory remarks and notes appended to it, has been obligingly furnished by the respected physician to the Dispensary,) exhibits the number of patients, and of the principal diseases, registered during the first five and the last five years of the institution.

| Years. | No. of Patients. | Diseases. | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------------|------------|---------|
| | | Fever. | Ague. | Asthma. | Rheumatism. | Small-pox. | Dropsy. |
| 1777-8, | 302 | 18 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| 1778-9, | 306 | 26 | 33 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 2 |
| 1779-80, | 460 | 109 | 71 | 17 | 22 | 37 | 6 |
| 1780-1, | 675 | 147 | 159 | 19 | 32 | 4 | 5 |
| 1781-2, | 510 | 65 | 103 | 24 | 21 | 4 | 11 |
| 1881-2, | 772 | 66 | — | 4 | 40 | — | 9 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|----|---|---|----|----|---|
| 1832-3, | 561* | 26 | 6 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 7 |
| 1833-4, | 729† | 39 | 1 | 3 | 42 | 2 | 8 |
| 1834-5, | 678 | 63 | — | 3 | 30 | 51 | 5 |
| 1835-6, | 593 | 63 | 1 | 2 | 28 | — | 6 |

"In the last series of five years, there have been above 100 cases of scarlatina;—in the first series none are recorded.

"The years 1780-81-82 were very severe upon the lower classes, as want added its attendant evils to the inclemencies of the seasons. Besides the heavy list of fever and ague, 21 cases of scurvy occurred; and I have no doubt are correctly stated, as two of the medical gentlemen had served abroad, and were familiar with the disease.

"In comparing the first and the last series of years, it will be noticed, that ague has almost disappeared, while fever, though much diminished in its proportion, still holds its place as the most common disease of our district. It is at all times difficult to trace the immediate cause of fever, which probably originates in some specific malaria; but we have evidence that, once generated, it may be communicated from one person to another not exposed to the same noxious miasma which produced it. Marshes and wet ground alone are not necessary to the production of malaria, or many of the pestilential plains of Italy would be freed from disease.

"The cases of asthma have diminished, while rheumatism has increased. The additional comforts and improved living of the lower classes, we should have expected, would have produced a beneficial effect upon both. The removal of ague was likely to have diminished the cases of dropsy; it is not a very common disease among us, but as frequent as formerly. It is a curious fact, that stone in the bladder is almost unknown in the district, with the exception of one or two families, where it has existed as a hereditary disease."

Benefit Societies.—Various friendly and benefit societies formerly existed in the parish, but have all either been dissolved, or

* "Cholera visited Kelso in 1832. The dispensary was used as a cholera hospital, and no record kept of the other patients for two months. There were about forty deaths from cholera; and, as fever prevailed at the same time, the cases of fever were certainly more numerous than the books show. Several of the cases of ague this year were occasioned, apparently, from opening drains in a piece of marshy ground."

† "In October 1833, a man and his wife, dealers in fish, were seized with cholera, and died. In the course of the year various cases of modified small-pox were noticed; but in the following season, when 51 dispensary cases are recorded, there was much less of modification. Various deaths occurred; and the medical gentlemen of the institution were convinced that the disease was more violent according to the distance of time which had elapsed from the vaccination of the patient."

are in the course of dissolution, in consequence of the erroneous principles, in respect to the proportion between the rate of admission and the rate of allowance, on which they were based. Nor is there any prospect of the speedy formation of new ones on sounder principles. The only beneficiary schemes of a similar nature now existing are the "Yearly Societies,"—four in number,—which are formed with the view of assisting their members when sick, and dissolved and reorganized every year. Each member contributes weekly the sum of 1s. 2d., together with 6d. a year for the expenses of management, 6d. on the death of a member, and 3d. on the death of a member's wife. A member, when laid aside from work by sickness, receives 4s. per week for the first three months, and 2s. for the next three months—the allowance not falling lower than this. On the death of a member, his widow is allowed, as funeral expenses, a sum at the rate of 6d. from each member; on the death of a member's wife, he is allowed 3d. from each. The only impediment to the beneficial operation of these simple but useful institutions is the practice, which cannot be too soon abandoned, of holding their monthly meetings in public-houses, and spending their fines on drink, instead of applying them to the increase of the funds.

Savings Bank.—The want of benefit societies is, to some extent, supplied by a Savings bank, which has existed since 1815, having been the first that was organized in Scotland on the model of that of Ruthwell. This bank is managed gratuitously by the agent of the Commercial Bank, Mr John Waldie, who devotes some hours every week to it. Any sum from L. 2 to L. 10 is received,—the only limitation being, that whenever and as often as the deposit amounts to the latter sum it is withdrawn, and lodged in the Commercial Bank upon a deposit receipt in the depositor's name. The average sum invested yearly amounts to L. 517, 15s.; the average sum withdrawn, L. 474, 4s. 1d.; the average sum lodged with the Commercial Bank, L. 230; the average number of depositors, 49. The depositors are chiefly servant girls, labourers, and young persons; and it is pleasing to notice, that the amount of business done is regularly, though slowly, increasing. The amount lodged 'at 31st December 1838 was L. 908, 9s.; and the number of accounts open, 223.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are in this parish four sources of maintenance for the poor, viz. assessment, church-collections, mortified money, and charitable donations.

1. A compulsory assessment has existed since 1796.* This assessment is fixed by the heritors, kirk-session, and proprietors of houses, on the real rent of lands and houses,—one-half being leviable from the landlord, and the other half from the tenant. Two meetings are held yearly, at Whitsunday and Martinmas, for the purpose of fixing the rate, and also of revising the poor's roll, deciding upon the claims of applicants for relief, and auditing the accounts. These last are kept, as well as the general business relating to pauperism conducted, by a stipendiary overseer, with the assistance of two subordinate officers, a collector and distributor; and, to dispose of urgent cases that may arise in the interval between the general meetings, a committee, including the parish minister and one or more of the elders, is regularly appointed at the half-yearly meetings. It should be added, that, besides the regular pensions, a considerable proportion of the funds is given in the shape of interim supply to paupers who are not on the regular roll, or who, though on the roll, require, from temporary causes, additional relief;—a mode of administration which experience proves to be attended with the double advantage, of keeping down the numbers on the roll, and meeting necessitous cases without incurring the risk of making them permanently paupers. The average annual assessment for the last twenty years (during

* A voluntary assessment has existed from 1737. The minutes bear, that, in order to obtemper an act of the Sheriff and Justices of the Peace, passed in the year 1737, for the regulation and maintenance of the poor, the heritors and kirk-session, in that year, appointed the elders and others to perambulate the parish, and bring in a "list of the poor, aged, sick, lame, and impotent, all orphans, and other poor children within the parish;" as also, two overseers to superintend the collection and distribution of the funds, and a collector to serve under them. They likewise appointed the same persons to ascertain what persons would volunteer to give weekly for the support of the poor, with certification, "that all who were known to be able, and would not do it willingly, would be stented;" and, in addition, they chose "three fencible men for carrying off and removing from the place all vagrant and stranger-poor that may infest it, or be found troublesome." In 1737, when this plan was commenced, the whole sum necessary for the weekly support of the poor, including wages of the collector, was L. 24, 8s. Scots; of which sum the landward heritors agreed to take upon them one-half, conform to their respective valuations; the other half being made up by the feuars and inhabitants of the town, who, however, were to have for their relief, as far as they would go, the collections at the kirk-door, and the annual rent of the money lent out by the session for the use of the poor. Though this system continued with modifications on to 1796, it never seems to have worked well. Though the collection was made weekly in sums, as appears by the stent-rolls still preserved, not exceeding, in the majority of cases, one half-penny Sterling, large arrears were speedily accumulated, and the greatest difficulty encountered in keeping the funds up to the growing demands. The sum necessary for relief did not rise very rapidly, but it steadily advanced. By the year 1760 the number of pensioners on the roll was 60, and the sum disbursed among them L. 110, 16s.; in 1770 the sum was L. 122, 10s. 4d.; and in 1792 it was L. 276, 13s. 8d. It was this constant advance of the rate, together with the increasing difficulty of collecting the contributions of the town's-people, which induced the heritors to have recourse, in 1796, to the present compulsory system.

which the amount has not very greatly varied) has been about L. 850,—the lowest (in 1826) being about L. 700, the highest (1836) rather more than L. 1000. The average number of pensioners on the roll for the same period of years is 130. The average number of persons receiving interim supply, including those on roll, 73. The average allowance of each person, man, woman, and child, on the roll, (including interim supply,) 1s. 8d. weekly; the average allowance to each individual not on the roll, in the shape of interim supply, L. 2 annually. *

2. The church collections, including in them a proportion of the fees for proclamations, &c. and the trifling rent of L. 1, paid by the conveyer for being allowed to provide and hire out the mortcloths, amount at present, after deducting the allowances made to precentor, session-clerk, church-officers, &c. to L. 85. Prior to 1796, one-half of these collections was paid over to the heritors, to be applied by them and the session conjointly to the relief of the poor. But since the establishment of a compulsory rate, the whole collection has been wisely left at the disposal of the session, who apply it to the relief of such cases of urgent and temporary distress as cannot well be met by the slower and more formal process of an application to the heritors or their committee. The distribution is made weekly, in the several districts of the parish, by the elders, who, from their intimate knowledge of the people, can have a regard to the moral character as well as the physical necessities of applicants. And there is no doubt that the largeness of the collections—for they are large compared with the average collections in assessed parishes,—is due in no small degree to the well-founded persuasion among the congregation, that the fund is wisely and kindly administered.

3. The mortified money applicable to the relief of the poor, consists of five bequests made at different periods by individuals connected with the parish. Three of these, Jamieson's, Sloan's, and Dickson's, which are under the administration of the heritors

* It is believed that, in giving to proprietors of houses a co-ordinate power with heritors and elders in imposing the assessment, and also in taking the real rent as the basis of assessment, the usage of this parish is somewhat peculiar, if not of doubtful competence. The power conceded to proprietors of houses, however, is found to operate most beneficially in keeping down the assessment; as these individuals, from their residence among the people, and knowledge of their wants, possess the certain means of sifting all applications, and detecting imposture. The other practice alluded to—that of taking the "real rent," rather than "means and substance," as the basis of the assessment, is not so unexceptionable. It presses very unequally, inasmuch as it subjects the farmer, who pays a large rent for his farm, to a burden utterly disproportionate to that to which the rich manufacturer or capitalist is liable, who is assessed only to the value of the house he occupies.

and kirk-session, yield together an annual rent of L. 17, 10s., and the remaining two, Jonathan Waldie's, administered by the bailie and minister; and Leadbetter's, administered by the ministers of all denominations, yield at present an annual interest of L. 18. The items are as under :

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| Jamieson's legacy of L. | 200 | at 5 per cent. | - | L. | 10 | 0 | 0 | |
| Sloane's | 100 | 2½ | - | | 2 | 10 | 0 | |
| Dickson's annuity of | 5 | - | - | | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| J. Waddie's legacy of | 200 | 5 | - | - | 10 | 0 | 0 | |
| Leadbetter's | 200 | 4 | - | | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | L. | 35 | 10 | 0 |

4. To these various fixed* sources of relief must be added the sums supplied by the public † bounty of individuals, which, though necessarily varying in amount in different years, cannot be rated at a lower average than L. 100. ‡ These donations are generally given, in whole or in part, in coals, meal, &c. and are administered by various persons, according to the appointment of the donors.

Putting together all the above-mentioned resources, the annual amount applicable to the wants of the poor in the parish cannot be estimated much below L. 1300; a sum greatly exceeding what is expended for the same purpose in most Scottish parishes of 5000 population. Yet it must be remembered that the peculiar circumstances of Kelso, if they do not vindicate, sufficiently explain such an expenditure. Irrespective of its vicinity to England, which brings to bear upon it the ill example of an excessive poor-rate, its situation, as the metropolis of a wide rural district, necessarily exposes it to a constant influx of indigent persons, by making it the resort, in their declining years, of infirm labourers as well as of widows and sickly females, who, after a few years residence, frequently come in for a share of its charities and even of its pensions. The largeness, too, of the provision for the poor, taken in

* Under the head of fixed supplies ought perhaps to be included a corporation fund, averaging about L. 18 yearly, which arises from the fees of entrants, &c. This fund is divided annually, at the discretion of the office-bearers of the corporations, among poor members, or the indigent families of deceased members.

† This term is employed to distinguish the donations in question from private charity, which of course cannot be included in the present account.

‡ During the unusually severe winter of 1836-7, the class of donations referred to more than doubled this sum, as the following list will show :

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|-------|
| Duke of Roxburghe's donation, (4 oxen,) | - | - | L. 60 |
| Duchess Harriet, | - | in coals, | 25 |
| Sir Charles Dalbiac, | - | - | 50 |
| Mrs Shedden, | - | in meal, | 40 |
| James Nisbet, Esq. | - | - | 21 |
| Subscription in Kelso, | - | in meal, | 26 |

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connexion with the indiscriminate manner in which the "public" beneficence of individuals is in some instances distributed, tends to the same result, as it operates as a lure to improvident persons, and especially to the gipsy tribe, to settle in the place; while the entire disappearance, among a portion of the commonalty, of that honourable pride which makes it painful for a man either to receive parish relief himself, or to allow his relatives to receive it, serves both to perpetuate the evil of which it is itself one of the worst fruits, and to render all attempts to abate it next to hopeless. These considerations account but too satisfactorily for the growth and cost of pauperism in Kelso; though they do not render it the less a subject of lamentation, that there should be nearly one-tenth of the whole population dependent for their subsistence mainly upon public charity, and reduced to such an abject condition, morally and physically, as to form almost an inferior *caste* in the social system.

Mendicity.—If we except the case of a few of the parish poor, who are allowed to go round the town, of a Saturday, for a small gratuity, which particular families are in the habit of bestowing on them, there is scarcely such a thing as a beggar to be seen on the streets of Kelso; a result due to the good offices of the Society for the Suppression of Mendicity, which has been in operation since 1829. The plan pursued by this society is very simple. Having in view at once to suppress mendicity, and to relieve the really necessitous wanderer, it maintains an office in a central part of the town, where mendicants (non-parishioners) are required to apply; and a constable, whose business it is to keep the office, enter the names and description of the applicants in a register kept for the purpose, grant a small relief in money, or provide a night's lodging in an orderly lodging-house, according to their necessities,—and, above all, to take care that, when relieved, they shall forthwith leave the town. The office, constable, and register are, however, but the external machinery of the institution. Its vital principle is the pledge under which its members come, not to give charity to any vagrants who may apply at their houses or shops. The extent to which this pledge is kept is, in fact, the measure as well as the source of the society's success in compassing its object; and if it has hitherto failed in totally suppressing mendicity, the blame lies with the false humanity or too great facility of inhabitants who persist in throwing away their alms on "sturdy beggars." As it is, the "ancient craft" of begging is

happily at a discount in the parish ; and so long as the society is supported, there is little likelihood of its ever again coming out in evidence before the Sheriff of the county, as it did not very many years ago, that a day's begging in Kelso was, in the hands of " a canny gaberlunzie," worth " good 14s." It may be useful, as an evidence at once of the judicious management of the society, and of the small expense at which important civic ameliorations may sometimes be effected, to append the following statement of the number of vagrants relieved, and the total cost of management during the first four years.

| Years. | No. of vagrants. | Children. | Of whom were lodged for one or more nights. | Expenditure. |
|----------|------------------|-----------|---|--------------|
| 1829-30, | 528 | 183 | 437 | L. 31 14 0 |
| 1830-31, | 534 | 264 | 126 | 22 16 6½ |
| 1831-32, | 214 | 107 | 198 | 14 19 3 |
| 1832-33, | 342 | 119 | 209 | 20 5 0 |

Prison.—The only place for the confinement of delinquents is a lock-up house, the property of the burgh, which is employed chiefly for the temporary incarceration of vagrants.

Fairs.—Besides cattle-markets every second Friday of the month, from April to February inclusive, there are three horse fairs on the first, third, and fourth Fridays of March, and a fair for both cattle and horses on the second Friday of March ; but the chief fair, called St James's, the most ancient and one of the best attended on the border, takes place on the 5th of August. It is held on St James's Green, near the site of the ancient church of St James's ; and it has this peculiarity, that the magistrates of the county town attend and preside, as well as divide the customs with the local superior.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—The number of licensed places for the sale of spirits is 63, or one for every eighteen males in the parish above twenty years of age. There are few grocers who are not also spirit-dealers ; and the baleful practice of selling drams across their counter, and in their back shops, prevails to an extent which renders it one of the most fertile occasions of drunkenness. Repeated attempts have been made to induce the justices to limit the number of licenses, but hitherto, the pecuniary interests of landlords, who apprehend some difficulty in getting an adequate rent for their houses, should their tenants be denied a license, have had more weight with the court than the cause of temperance and good morals. Among the many proofs of the demoralizing effects of the spirit trade in all its departments, it may be mentioned, though the fact is probably not peculiar to Kelso,

that out of the many reputable and exemplary persons who take to tavern keeping as a refuge from reduced circumstances, there is scarcely one who does not in the course of a few years sink down into a habitual and incurable sot.

Fuel.—Coal is the fuel chiefly used. It is brought from the coal-field in the north part of Northumberland, by carters, who purchase the mineral on their own risk at the pit, and sell it at what it will bring to their customers. These dealers assemble with their carts daily in the square called the coal-market, where there are steelyards for weighing them. The inhabitants purchase coals in the market commonly in single cart loads, after receiving certification of their weight at the steelyard. The coals are in general of an inferior quality, and, though sufficiently combustible, contain a large residuum of clay. The average yearly consumption is about 5000 tons, or 1 ton for each person in the parish. The price may be generally stated as about 8d. per cwt. in winter, and 7d. in summer.

October 1838.

PARISH OF MINTO.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. DAVID AITKEN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—In old charters, the name of this parish is written Mynthow, Myntow, Mintov, from which in more modern times it passed into Mynto and Minto. Different etymologies have been proposed, but all of them seem to be conjectural. Referring to the situation of the old village on the brink of a steep bank, or to the locality of the mansion-house on the opposite side of the glen, where an angular point is formed by the junction of two rivulets, it has been supposed that the origin of the name might be found in the British Mintau, denoting the brink or edge which extends out, Minto the exterior brink or border, and Mintua towards the brink. Ancient names, however, when borrowed from the natural features of the country, are generally derived from the most striking objects, and it is accordingly more probable, that the bold and

commanding eminence of Minto Craigs gave a designation to the parish. Agreeably to this view, as Meynn is said to be the Cambro-British, and Meen the Scoto-Irish word for a kid, the Celtic etymologists have concluded the name to signify kid's hill, the more readily, it has been thought, from considering that kids delight in craggy heights; unfortunately, however, for this explanation, nothing has been found in these languages resembling *to* or *tow*, which bears the signification of a hill or craig. Another attempt has been made to derive the name from the British Mynta, which means an aggregate, or Myntai, what is aggregated, both of these words being applicable to an assemblage of rocks, which certainly present the appearance of being piled or heaped together. In the Welsh dictionaries, Mynydh is translated *mons*, and in Cornish Mynnen signifies the Alps, so that the name may be connected with the ancient British dialects, in which the etymologies of leading objects, such as hills and rivers, are generally to be found; but, at the same time, showing the room there is for conjecture, a derivation might also be obtained in the Saxon language, it being well known that the names of several places which end in *ov* or *ow*, such as Grenehov, Stanehowe, Kalchov, (Kelso), are formed from *hov*, the origin of the Scotch *heugh*, and of the old English *how*, a hill, and which in the lexicons is rendered *mons prærupta*,—a term peculiarly appropriate to the locality referred to. It must be allowed, that the first syllable cannot be so satisfactorily accounted for, though room for conjecture might be afforded by the Saxon Mynta, Mint, or Mintan translated *statuere, dispoñere*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Minto was formerly confined to the barony; it now comprehends a considerable part of the suppressed parish of Hassendean, and extends about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 miles in length, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and may contain about $8\frac{3}{4}$ of square miles. It presents somewhat of an oblong figure, and is bounded on the west by the parish of Wilton; on the north by Lilliesleaf; on the east by Ancrum; and on the south by Cavers, which in some places stretches across the Teviot, so that the river is only partially the boundary. A stripe of haugh along the southern extremity forms the only level ground. The surface in other places rises in frequent undulations, with a blunt outline presenting considerable variety. But the general appearance of the country is chiefly diversified by two green hills, the highest of which reaches an elevation of 877 feet,* and to the east of them by the Minto Craigs, a

* The heights in this neighbourhood are usually very inaccurately stated, and made to exceed the truth, from the calculations being based on a defective survey by

congeries of trap rocks, mostly covered with wood, which, with a bold eminence, 721 feet in height above the level of the sea, overhang the valley of the Teviot. These heights form a ridge running lengthways east and west through the greater part of the parish. To the south of them, the ground slopes to the river, and is farther diversified by some small glens or deans, watered by rivulets. Here, as in a great part of the south of Scotland, much of the most interesting scenery is concealed in these sequestered dells. Two may be mentioned as possessing much beauty, considering their scale and extent. The one, near the western boundary, is partly clothed with native brushwood and trees, receding into open glades; the rock in other places is exposed in projecting ledges, at the foot of which a clear stream finds its way, containing, even in the heats of summer, some deep pools; and having almost an appearance of grandeur, when flooded in winter. This picturesque spot was scarcely accessible, and comparatively little known, till of late, when, under the direction of the present proprietor of Teviot Bank, it has been laid open by judiciously formed paths. The other glen is narrow, and has more the character of a ravine. The upper part, by means of a head thrown across it, is formed into a piece of artificial water, which winds under the steep and smooth bank, on the edge of which Minto House is situated, and has its margin inclosed by tall evergreens, yews, weeping-willows, and several magnificent trees. The water, as it escapes, forms a considerable cascade, and below this the dean assumes its natural character, though still sufficiently intermixed with exotic shrubs, and maintaining enough of a dressed appearance to suit the neighbourhood of a large residence. From the sheltered nature of the situation, the trees thrive vigorously, and some of them have reached an uncommon size; among these, may be mentioned that most graceful of tall evergreens, the hemlock spruce, the common spruce, silver-fir, several varieties of maple, and some larches, among the finest which are to be found in Scotland. Emerging from this closely wooded defile, a path leads at a little distance to Minto Craigs, the most conspicuous and interesting object in this district. The lower part of the steep is strewn with large masses of rock, dislodged from the precipice above, which, with its irregular surface, covered with a greyish lichen, in some

Mr Kinghorn. The following levels are given as approaching nearer to correctness: Bed of the Teviot at Spitalford above the sea, 197 feet; Minto House, above Spitalford, 194 feet; Minto Craigs above do. 524; Minto Hill above do. 680; Ruberslaw above do. 1174 feet. In the above list, Ruberslaw was very accurately measured by the present Earl of Minto, 1st, by the spirit level, 2d, trigonometrically, and 3d, barometrically, the results by each method being precisely the same.

places projects, as if suspended in air, threatening to fall. Those fragments are rendered more picturesque from being partially overgrown with patches of ivy, and having their cavities filled with varieties of the fern, with foxglove, dianthus, and other flowering plants. With the characteristic form of the trap rocks, the crags rise into different points, presenting a succession of platforms, one of which tradition has long celebrated as Barnhill's bed, the retreat of a noted border outlaw of that name, mentioned in the "*Lay of the Last Minstrel*."* The ruin of an old tower or peel, which formerly belonged to the same person, crowns one of the heights, to which, and to the other eminences easy paths conduct, shaded by thriving trees. The view from the summit is highly diversified and beautiful. The windings of the "silver Teviot," through a pleasing vale, sometimes contracted and again expanding, can be traced above and below for many a mile, the prospect on the one hand being terminated by the fine outline of the Liddesdale hills, along with those on the confines of Dumfries-shire, and in the opposite direction by the smoother and more rounded forms of the Cheviots. Ruberslaw, the highest hill in this vicinity, rises immediately in front, with Denholm dean, celebrated by Leyden, on the right, and the narrow bed of the Rule on the left; while behind, to the north, are distinctly seen the Eildon-hills, the Black-hill, Cowden-Knowes, and more remotely Smailholm Tower, Hume Castle, and the low dark sky-line of the Lammermoors.

Meteorology.—The hills and trap rocks just described occasionally attract and detain the clouds which sweep along the vale of the Teviot, so that in summer thunder storms are rather frequent, and have been known to be severe. Probably from the same cause, heavy falls of rain have taken place, giving rise to local inundations. These would appear formerly to have been more common than they have been of late years. One took place in 1783, and another in 1789, by both of which the pond-head, a strong mass of building near Minto House, was carried down. But the most remarkable which is remembered, happened on the 9th of August 1806, when it rained in torrents nearly three hours, accompanied by incessant thunder and lightning. Formerly, ague was so common a complaint that few in any condition of life escaped it, but now it has entirely disappeared, owing to the draining and other improvements of the land. Typhus and scarlet fevers, though not frequent, occasionally visit us in autumn, and are most prevalent in

* "On Minto-crags the moon-beams glint,
Where Barnhill hewed his bed of flint."—*Lay of the Last Minstrel*.

low and close situations. In this neighbourhood there are a few fatuous persons ; and this state, it may not be unworthy of remark, would appear to be connected with the lymphatic temperament.

Geology.—Though of small extent, this parish is not altogether without geological interest, from its occupying the position where, in the valley of the Teviot, the transition rocks first disappear, and are replaced by others of a subsequent formation. At the western boundary, there is still a continuation of that great deposit of greywacke which stretches downward from Dumfries-shire in an easterly direction, and in vertical or highly inclined strata. It skirts the whole of the north side of the parish, but on the south is seen terminating in the bed of the Teviot, the last indications of it being exactly opposite to Teviotbank House. It occurs in the form of greywacke slate, where the lamina are thin, soft, of a white and sometimes greenish hue, interspersed with small specks of mica ; and likewise in beds a foot or two thick, of a bluish-gray colour, in which cases it has the appearance of a sandstone, and forms a good building material. In some places, it is extensively penetrated by veins of calcareous spar, and the mass itself has occasionally so much lime disseminated through it as to effervesce freely with an acid. In the bed of the Teviot, under Hassendean-burn House, and to the east of it, in the glen through which Hassendean-burn flows, sections are exposed of a coarse red conglomerate, alternating with thin beds of sandstone ; and near the site of the old peel at Hassendean, these nearly horizontal strata may in two places be perceived overlying the vertical strata of greywacke. These rocks are also seen in contact in a hollow formed by the small rill which marks the western boundary of the parish ; while another line of junction, less acted on by the weather, has been laid open to the north-east, near Standhill. This conglomerate consists of a red argillaceous basis, containing imbedded portions of quartz, red porphyry, agate, greywacke, and flinty slate, all more or less rounded by attrition. In size the fragments vary from one to several inches, the most abundant are of a quartzose nature, having frequently a reddish or brown colour, with a conchoidal fracture. This deposit would therefore seem not only to have succeeded the older transition rocks, but also to be composed of the materials these afforded, after they had undergone the action of water ; the softer parts forming the cement in which the harder are imbedded along with some other foreign substances. That the

subsidence must have taken place under very different circumstances appears on examining the strata, in which some layers consist of comparatively small nodules, and pass gradually into a coarse sandstone, which would appear to have settled from a fluid in a state of rest, while in other instances the fragments are so large, and heaped together in such disorder, as to indicate currents of considerable force. And that, further, there were successive periods at which the water was alternately at rest and in motion, may be likewise inferred from the beds of sandstone and conglomerate being piled several times one above the other. That in this fluid also, there must have been diffused a great quantity of iron in the state of an oxide or peroxide, from whatever source it may have been obtained, is evident from the deep red colour of all these lower deposits. In following the strata upwards, however, we find that the supply of iron must subsequently have varied, as beds of some thickness occur which are of a yellowish or even white colour, among which are still interposed other layers of red sandstone. With some local variations from the contiguity of the trap rocks, the inclination of these strata is very small; their general dip is towards the east or south-east, at an angle of three or four degrees. The light coloured stone has occasionally a greenish tinge on the outer surface of the beds; in these cases, it also contains small scales of mica, and specks of iron are sometimes found scattered through the mass, which give it, when weathered, a dotted rusty appearance. Neither the red nor white varieties effervesce with an acid, but veins of carbonate of lime are found on the exterior of the layers. It has not yet been ascertained that fossil remains occur in any of these rocks. The accounts sometimes given by the workmen, refer, there is little doubt, to those dendritic appearances which are formed by the exposure of particles of iron, and are merely superficial.

Rising through these sedimentary rocks, or forming a nucleus, on the sides of which they rest, there are two unstratified masses of igneous origin, but which have assumed their present state under different circumstances. The one, divided in the middle, forms the green hills of Minto, which have a smooth round outline, and are covered with grass to their summits, though in several places, on a level with the turf, the rock is exposed. It consists of a greyish-coloured basis, in which are mixed different fragments, some of them like small grains, others as large as a nut; several are four or five inches in size, and a few as many feet.

The larger imbedded portions are hard ; and among them are found hornstone, lydian-stone, and nodules, which have the look and texture of greywacke, but so altered as to have become silicious. This variety of rock is called trap-tufa, from its resemblance to the tufaceous beds found in the neighbourhood of volcanoes ; and there can be little doubt its origin is similar, and that the heated mass, as it was raised, was of such a temperature as to carry along with it portions of foreign matter, only partially changing them. It is accordingly a mechanical compound, like the conglomerate already described,—with this difference, that the basis of the latter is aqueous, and of the other igneous. It is, however, at the same time to be remarked, that, from their generally rounded shape, the fragments would appear to have been water-worn before they were incorporated in the fiery matters to which they owe their vitreous lustre and consistency. Might not this, perhaps, assign to the elevation of the tufa,—a date posterior to the accumulation of the rolled fragments which compose the conglomerate beds ; or, may not these, altered by heat, form the tufa ?

About a mile distant to the south-east, there is another mass of trap, forming Minto Craigs, but which having been projected at a higher temperature, and crystallized in cooling, has assumed that state to which the name of greenstone is given. It rises in several peaked eminences, the bolder and more exposed fronts of which are turned towards the south. It is rather finely granular, and in some places exhibits an imperfect columnar structure. In consequence of this, it has been separated by the action of the weather, forming those irregular fragments with which, in the course of ages, the southern slope of the height has been strewed.

There are also, in different parts of the parish, newer deposits of an alluvial nature, which may be here mentioned. Gravel is found to the depth of many feet, chiefly composed of fragments, derived from the greywacke rocks, and thereby shewing that the currents by which they had accumulated had set in from the west, the direction in which those strata are found. There is also throughout the district, and covering the sandstone, so as greatly to interfere with its being quarried, a deposit of reddish clay, known by the local name of *dent*. In some places, it has a depth of 40 and 50 feet, is penetrated extensively by calcareous veins, and arranged in layers, having the appearance of an argillaceous sandstone, loosely integrated. It is of recent origin, and might

deserve examination, to determine whether it contains any, and what organic remains. In some of the hollows, marl has accumulated, and may still be observed going on by percolation from the soil. The origin of the lime, at least in part, is to be referred to the greywacke rocks, in the neighbourhood of which it is that the deposits take place. From the description given of the rocks, the nature of the soil may be readily inferred:—that which rests on the greywacke is a stiff white till; while from the argillaceous nature of the sandstone, and the covering of *dent*, the land in other places is also clayey and retentive of moisture, except in the alluvial tract near the river, and where the deposits of gravel are found, and likewise near to the greenstone rocks, which by their decomposition form a black and rich mould.

Having described the nature and relative position of these rocks, a few remarks are added respecting the theory of their age. The greywacke deposits, underlying the unconformable strata of the sandstone, are obviously older than the latter; and it has been supposed that, being sedimentary rocks, now greatly inclined from some force acting since their deposition, they may have been previous also to the igneous rocks, and received from the elevation of these their present position. A cause, however, less of a limited and local nature, must be sought for the distortion so characteristic of these transition strata; and a newer era, assigned to several at least of the trap irruptions, which in some cases seem to have happened after the subsidence of the sandstone which they have hardened. Thus, for example, a few years ago a quarry was opened at the foot of the Minto hills, which, after a short attempt, was abandoned in consequence of the hardness of the freestone, which broke the tools of the workmen. In opening also a footpath on the west corner of the crags, the strata of sandstone were found cropping out,—here likewise so hard and crystalline as to give out sparks when struck with a hammer. The dislocations and slips in the quarry from which Minto-House was built, might be viewed as disturbances produced by the action of fire. Still, notwithstanding these facts, and although they should prove that some of the irruptions are newer, on taking a general view of the sandstone strata in the neighbourhood, and their position relatively to the trap rocks, which are rather abundant, it is difficult to resist the notion that these sedimentary deposits are the most recent. And the view which, to the writer of this account, as yet seems best to explain the actual appearances, is to consider the

trap rocks, as already existing, as peaks and irregular masses in the collection of waters from which the sandstone subsided, and at the time of their subsidence to suppose this sea moved by submarine currents, so as to cause the chief deposit of sand to take place on the east side of those elevated summits, where, accordingly, it is now found, forming a long ridge, sloping off as it recedes. Agreeably to this supposition, on the south side of the Teviot, the sandstone is most abundant to the east of the trap hills of Ruberslaw, the Dunion, and Lanton, inclining gradually from them. While on the north side also, it is to the east of the Minto hills, Craigs, and Standhill, that the strata occur in greatest quantity with the same appearance and inclination; and still farther down the country, this also takes place at Peniel-heugh. But whether we suppose the current to have existed while the stratified rocks were only settling, or subsequent to their assuming a solid form, it is necessary farther to admit the agency of water at a much more recent period, rushing in the same direction, from the great quantity of boulders of greenstone scattered over the surface of the ground, and uniformly to the east of those places where the rock is found *in situ*.

It is a question of much difficulty to what member of the series these sandstones belong.—So far as is known, no fossil remains have hitherto been observed to aid in the determination, and, though occupying the place of the old red sandstone when it occurs, yet, judging from the grain of the rock, the small inclination of the beds, nowhere exceeding an angle of 8° or 9° , the circumstance also of the upper strata being usually white, and the lower red, along with their apparent connection with those which are so extensively developed in Berwickshire,* and there observed overlapping the coal measures, it may be held in the meantime as the most probable view, that they belong to the new red sandstone formation, the *gris rouge*, and *roth-todte-liegende* of continental geologists.

Zoology.—Few of the animals can be considered as rare. The *Caprimulgus Europæus*, however, which has of late once or twice been shot, is not common in this part of the country. The kingfisher is occasionally to be seen on the banks of the smaller rivulets, and in the same haunts the water-rail and solitary snipe are met.

* See the Geological Survey of Berwickshire, by David Milne, Esq. Advocate, in the 32d Number of the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.

The following * list contains the more remarkable insects which have been found,—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Odontonyx rotundatus | Anthobium melanocephalum |
| Omasus orinorum | Acidota crenata |
| Steropus Æthiops | Vespa Britannica |
| Abax striola | Mancipium Cardamines |
| Bembidium flavipes | Melitæa Euphrosyne |
| Elmis Volkmar | Vanessa Urticæ |
| —— parallelipipedus | —— Atalanta |
| —— æneus | —— Io (rare) |
| Enicocerus viridi-æneus | Cynthia cardui |
| Hydræna testacea (Curtis, British | Hipparchia Blandina |
| Entomology) | —— Hyperanthus |
| Antherophagus glaber | —— Pamphilus |
| Ips quadripustulata | Lycæna Phlæas |
| Atopa cervina | Molobrus Thomæ |
| Lampyrus noctiluca, said to have been | Dioctris rufipes |
| once observed. | Porphyrops diaphanus |
| Hylobius Abietis | Chrysops cæcutiens |
| Rhagium indigator | Sargus Reaumuri |
| Galeruca Tanaceti | Xylota sylvarum |
| Chrysomela Hyperici | Conops flavipes |
| Meloe proscarabæus | Tephritis Zoe |
| Bryaxis impressa | Sepsis cylindrica. |

The following plants, found in the alluvial ground, are by no means generally distributed, and some of them have not hitherto been observed in any of the adjoining districts : *Euphorbia Esula*, *Saponaria officinalis*, *Cichorium Intybus*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Cenothera biennis*. The two latter are of rare occurrence, and the last, although admitted into the British Flora, is not strictly indigenous. In the wooded portions of the parish, the following are the rarer phenogamous species that occur.—*Spiræa salicifolia*, *Pyrola minor*, *Circea lutetiana*, *Campanula latifolia*, and *C. rapunculoides*, *Euonymus Europæus*, *Viburnum Opulus*, *Allium ursinum*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Malva moschata*, *Epipactis latifolia*. On the borders of fields, the somewhat local species *Fedia dentata*, *Silva pratensis*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, and *Sanguisorba officinalis*, are at times met with, together with *Gentiana campestris*, *Agrimonia Eupatorium*, *Gnaphalium sylvaticum*. The species that follow, some of which are rare in the south of Scotland, occur among the trap-rocks of Minto craigs.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Avena pratensis | Trifolium arvense |
| Echium vulgare | Senecio sylvaticus |
| Dianthus deltoides | Asplenium Trichomanes |
| Sedum reflexum | —— septentrionale (in great |
| Lychnis viscaria | abundance) |
| Arabis hirsuta | —— Adiantum-nigrum |
| Geranium lucidum | Polypodium Phegopteris |

* For the list of insects, and of the rarer plants, the writer is indebted to Mr James Duncan, a native of Roxburghshire, and author of a Catalogue of Coleopterous Insects, printed in the Wernerian Memoirs, and of the volumes on Entomology in the Naturalist's Library.

Of the numerous cryptogamous productions the following may be specified :

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i> | <i>Agaricus integer</i> |
| <i>Jungermannia asplenoides</i> | ----- <i>floccosus</i> |
| ----- <i>furcata</i> | <i>Helvella leucophæa</i> |
| ----- <i>bidentata</i> | <i>Phallus impudicus</i> |
| <i>Merulius cantharellus</i> | <i>Sphærobolus stellatus</i> |
| <i>Agaricus subdulcis</i> | <i>Peziza scutellata and lentifera</i> |
| ----- <i>piperatus</i> | <i>Stemonites fasciculata</i> |
| ----- <i>procerus</i> | <i>Phacidium coronatum</i> |
| ----- <i>deliciosus</i> (plentiful in some seasons) | <i>Physarum aureum</i> |

The beautiful *Peziza coccinea* has been once observed in the neighbourhood of Minto House.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Barony of Minto.—The earliest notices of the Barony of Minto occur in the fourteenth century, at which time it was in the possession of a family belonging to the ancient and powerful clan of the Turnbolls. Some smaller pendicles, however, would appear to have been held by other proprietors, for there is a* charter of Robert I. granting part of the mill lands to one Gulielmus Barbitonsor;† and another grant in the twelfth year of Robert III. to Laurencius de Govane and his heirs, on the feudal tenure of their yearly presenting to the King a bow and twelve arrows, at the chapel of the assumption of the Virgin Mary, in Ettrick Forest.‡ The lands of the barony were, in 1390, granted by John Turnbull to Sir William Stewart of Jedworth, and confirmed by a charter of Robert III., signed the same year at Minto, in the presence of Walter and Matthew, Bishops of St Andrews and Glasgow. In the following year, another charter confirmed to the same person the lands and tenements of the town and territory of Minto, along with the advowson of the church freely disposed to him by John de Abernethy. This Sir William Stewart is considered to be a descendant of Sir Allan Stewart of Dreghorn, killed at the battle of Hallidon Hill in 1333, and to have borne the title both of Jedworth and Castlemilk. He is described in the charter confirming the grant

* The authorities for these facts are chiefly the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, Ayscoff's Catalogue, and in one or two instances Rymer's *Fœdera*.

† It is just possible that this may have been a relative of John Barbour, the poet, who was a contemporary, as it has been conjectured his father might be the John Barbour to whom Robert I. ordered the payment of a sum of money to be made by Sir Alexander Seaton, Governor of Berwick. All research has hitherto failed to ascertain the poet's birth-place; perhaps the mention of these names at the same period of time in connexion with the south of Scotland, might, in the absence of better data, be held as favouring the supposition that he was sprung from a border family.

‡ In Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. vii. p. 273, A. D. 1380, mention is made of the barony of Minto as consisting of two parts. "Item le deux parties de Baronie de Myntehowe, oue l'avouson de l'eglise q'estoit à Johan Turnebole."

of the lands by Turnbull as his nephew, and they would appear to have been faithful companions in the daring adventures of those troubled times, for in the year 1400 they made a fierce irruption together into England, in the account of which Turnbull is styled "*Out with the Sword*,"—a surname expressive of his heady and war-like temper. Still long after the grant just referred to, notice repeatedly occurs both of the Stewarts and Turnbells of Minto,—a circumstance which is, however, satisfactorily explained in the following curious extract from the "Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted:—"

"In the charter chest of Lord Minto is a notarial instrument, dated April 23, 1429, purporting that, on that day at Minto, it was attempted, by virtue of a precept of seisin, to invest Sir William Stewart of Dalswintoun in the lands of Minto, and that those proceedings were interrupted by Walter Turnbull, who declared the hereditary seisin then granted to Sir William Stewart null and void, as he himself was the true heir and legal baron of Minto.—From another notarial instrument in the same charter-chest, dated 1425, we learn that Walter Turnbull had prepared himself for this event a few years before. An inquiry at his instance had been instituted relative to John Turnbull, his father, who had made the grant of Minto in 1390. A jury, nominated for the occasion, declared that he laboured under the effects of a leprosy at the time when the deed was executed,—a circumstance which, according to the laws of Scotland, as they then stood, rendered the proceedings void. The inquest into the validity of the charter of the lands of Minto seems to have been in consequence of an account received in Scotland of the fall of Walter's father, Sir John Turnbull, at the battle of Cravant, in 1423. After much dissension between the claimants, it appears that, by a brief perambulation by King James II. addressed to Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sheriff of Teviotdale, that officer made a partition of the estate of Minto between Sir William Stewart and Walter Turnbull, in certain proportions; according to which the posterity of both continued to hold them."*

Family of Minto.—After † long remaining in the possession of

* The Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted, pp. 46, 47.

† In the Criminal Trials, there is an entry, October 18, 1526, with respect to Robert Stewart of Mynto, for his being with umquhile John Earl of Lennox in the field of Linlithgow; and from Lesley's History of Scotland, we learn that, seventeen years afterwards, in the battle of Glasgow Moor, fought 1543, the "Laird of Minto, who was on the part of Lennox and Provost of Glasgow, was evil hurt." Upwards

these families, the estate of Minto was purchased by Walter Riddell, second son of Walter Riddell of New-house, and by his daughters, who were coheiresses, it was sold, previously to the Union, to Sir Gilbert Elliot, ancestor of the present family of Minto. This eminent person, born in 1651, was a younger son of Gawen Elliot of Midlem Mill, who was the fourth son of Gilbert Elliot of Stobs, commonly called "Gibbie with the gowden garters," by Margaret daughter of Walter Scott, of Harden, better known by the sobriquet of "Maggy Fendy." Being the second son of a younger branch, Gilbert was destined to the profession of the law; but in that stirring period of history, he appears also to have taken an active interest in political affairs, as, on the 16th July 1685, he was found guilty of treason, and forfeited for being in arms with * Argyle,—the process describing him as a writer in Edinburgh. He seems, however, to have been soon pardoned by the King, for in little more than two years afterwards, he applied to be admitted an advocate, when his examiners, it is said, "stumbled to meet with him, till he first showed his remission lest it might infer converse against them." He was one of the deputation of Scotch gentlemen who waited on King William in Holland, to concert measures for his coming over to England, so that at the Revolution, from the prominent part he had taken, the act of forfeiture was rescinded, and

of sixty years thereafter, in a letter of the privy-council to the King, as to the deadly feud between the Earls of Eglinton and Lord Sempil, this sentence occurs: "August 27, 1606, We had likewise in hand the process of Glasgow, wherein we have found very great insolence and riot committed by Mynto and a number of the commons of the town, and have committed the persons guilty to ward within the burgh of Linlithgow, till your Majesty's pleasure be known." Several scattered notices of the Turnbulls likewise occur. There is a remission, dated 5th April 1499, to William Turnbull of Minto, and Archibald Turnbull, son to umquhile John Turnbull, for the slaughter of umquhile John of Rutherford, and for their treasonable passing and remaining in England." Only three years afterwards, however, in 1502, the Turnbulls of Minto were again engaged in several acts of violence, destroying the place of Barnhills, and burning twenty-six bolls of bear, and forty bolls of oats, pertaining to George Rutherford of Langnewton, in his place of Sandystanes, so that, on account of these outrages, we find, in 1506, William Turnbull of Minto, along with Mark, Edward, and Walter Turnbull, his accomplices, set forth as "rebels, and at the horn." The same lawless habits still continued a century later, for Thomas Turnbull, apparand of Mynto, was concerned in the slaughter of Thomas Ker of Crailing and his servant, which took place on the 14th September 1601. There was, indeed, at this time, as we learn from a contemporary document, "a deadly feud standing betwixt the haile name Trumbill in the ane part, and the laird of Pharnihirst, the haile Kers, and the haile inhabitants of the towne of Jedburghe on the other."

* Fountainhall, in his Notices of the Transactions of 1685, says, "As to the stock with which Argyle furnished his ships and arms, Rumbold said that he thought it did not exceed L. 12,000 Sterling; how he got it, some said ane English widow in Amsterdam, called Mistress Smith, advanced him considerably; others say that Polwart, Torwoodly, and Mr Gilbert Elliot went to Geneva, and to the Protestant churches of Germany, begging supply to the poor afflicted Protestants of Britain." —Historical Observations, i. p. 191.

he was appointed clerk to the privy-council, which office he held in 1692. He was subsequently created a Baronet in 1700, and received from King William a charter of the lands of Headshaw and Dryden, which was ratified by Queen Anne in 1705, though mention is also made of an earlier charter of these lands, dated 1696. On the 28th June 1705, he took his seat in the Court of Session by the title of Lord Minto, and, as it appears, he became also a Lord of Justiciary. A portrait of him is still preserved in Minto House, painted about three years before his death, which took place probably in 1718, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. The preceding account, though minute, may have some general interest, not only from his being the founder of a family which has risen to distinction, but from the part he filled in an eventful period of national history, and the high character he maintained for talent and integrity. He is mentioned by Wodrow in his history, in these very honourable terms: "Mr Elliot, since Lord Minto, is lately dead, and filled one room in the Bench of Justiciary, where an unjust sentence was given forth against him, as well as a place in the College of Justice he so well deserved, by his unshaken probity and boldness against all unrighteousness and vice." The following amusing anecdote is taken from Dr M'Crie's *Memoirs of Mr William Veitch*: "When Lord Minto visited Dumfries, of which Mr Veitch was minister, after the Revolution, he always spent some time with his old friend, when their conversation often turned on the perils of their former life. On these occasions his Lordship was accustomed facetiously to say, 'Ah! Willie, Willie, had it no been for me, the pyets had been pyking your pate on the Nether Bow port;' to which Veitch replied, 'Ah! Gibbie, Gibbie, had it no been for me ye would ha'e been yet writing papers for a plack the page.'"

The second Sir Gilbert was born in 1693 or 1694, became a Lord of Session on the 21st June 1726,* a Lord of Justiciary 20th August 1733, and was afterwards appointed Justice-Clerk. He likewise sat in Parliament in 1725, concurring in his politics with John Duke of Argyle, whose confidence he enjoyed, and whom he assisted in the management of Scottish affairs. It was in his time that the grounds at Minto began to be laid out and improved. A pond head was thrown across the glen in 1735, and considerable alterations and additions made to the house in 1744-45. Before

* It is said that in this year, 1726, the German flute was first brought into Scotland by Sir Gilbert Elliot, who, to his other accomplishments, added a taste for music.

this, the only trees near the house consisted of an avenue of old ash, one or two of which are still standing; and the village then stretched along the opposite bank in a straggling line, with the church and manse nearly in the midst of it. The greater part of these houses was removed to Minto Green, the site of the present village, the banks of the pond planted, and on one side a row of larches was placed most probably in 1736, being among the first that were introduced into Scotland. There is a tradition, that the seed was sent in a frank by John Duke of Argyle, sown in flower-pots, and kept in the hot-house till, by the advice of the Sardinian Ambassador, who chanced to be on a visit, the plants were removed to their present situation, where several of them have now attained a height of 100 feet.* On the opposite bank, there is a shady avenue of beech of the same date, when the dwelling-house was also farther improved, and a library† formed, such as at that time was rarely to be met with in Scotland. From this his family seem greatly to have profited, as they were distinguished by their acquirements. One of them, Miss Jane Elliot, who died in 1805, is still affectionately remembered from her talents and delightful conversation, but has acquired a more extensive and lasting celebrity as the authoress of the "Flowers of the Forest," of which no less an authority than the late Sir Walter Scott has said, that "it is expressed in a strain of elegiac simplicity and tenderness which has seldom been equalled, and imitates the manner of the ancient minstrels so happily, that it required the most positive evidence to convince me that the song was of modern date." This lady appears to have been no less remarkable for strength of character than accomplishment, for at the time of the Rebellion in 1745—46, her father being forced to conceal himself from a party of Jacobites among the craigs, then only covered with broom and long grass, she received and entertained the officers, and, by her presence of mind and composure, averted the danger. The Justice-Clerk died suddenly at Minto in 1766, and was succeeded by his son, the third Sir Gilbert, who seems to have been also intended for the profession of his father and grandfather, as he passed his civil law trials in 1743; but, having early associated with the public men of his day in London, he engaged actively in political life, was returned Member of Parliament, first for the county of Sel-

* For the measurement of these and other remarkable trees, see p. 375.

† The library has subsequently received many valuable additions, and may be computed as now containing 12,000 volumes.

kirk in 1754, afterwards for Roxburghshire in 1765, and became also Treasurer of the Navy. He died in 1777, of a pulmonary complaint, at Marseilles. He possessed an amiable and highly cultivated mind, and, in the midst of his other pursuits, found leisure for those of literature, favourable evidence of which is preserved in the beautiful pastoral song,—“ My sheep I neglected, I broke my sheep-hook,” published in the notes to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, and in the draught of a letter to David Hume, the metaphysician, printed along with the first Dissertation to the new *Encyclopædia Britannica* by Dugald Stewart, and by that competent judge, held to be remarkable for “ sound philosophy and purity of English style.” The fourth Sir Gilbert, father of the present Earl, was distinguished by eminent talents for public business, as is shewn in the number of high offices to which he was successively called. In 1793, he was appointed Governor of Toulon, Viceroy of Corsica in 1794, Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna in 1799, President of the Board of Control in 1806, and Governor General of India in 1807. He was created Baron Minto, and admitted to the peerage in 1797, and raised to the rank of an Earl in 1812, with the additional title of Viscount Melgund; for his eminent services in the East, he also received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. He died soon after his return from India, on his way to Scotland in 1814, aged sixty-three years. Though much of his time was spent abroad, the improvements of the paternal estate were continued by Lady Minto, daughter of Sir George Amyand, whom he married a few weeks before his father's death. Besides extensive additions to the plantations, the present House of Minto was built, being finished in 1814. The present Earl, born in 1782, and married 1806 to Miss Brydone, daughter of Patrick Brydone, Esq. author of the *Tour in Sicily*, and maternal grand-daughter of Principal Robertson, has also been actively employed in political life. He early represented his native county in Parliament, has since held the appointment of Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Berlin, and at present fills the office of First Lord of the Admiralty.

Hassendean—Though now, in a considerable part, incorporated with Minto, a brief notice may here be given separately of Hassendean. Sir Walter Scott, in a note to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, states that Hassendean is a corruption from Hazeldean; and Leyden, in the *Scenes of Infancy*, has adopted the latter spelling, but for this there is not the slightest authority, either in tra-

dition, or in the old records, where the name frequently occurs. It is written Halstaneadene, Halstenden, Halstansdene, and Hastaneden, from which, perhaps, it changed into Hassingden, and Hassendean, as softer to the ear. It may either signify the dean of the holy stone,—a supposition which is strengthened from its containing a place of religious worship from a remote period, or it may simply mean Halstein's, or Hastein's dean, these being common Scandinavian names, and the appellation might be taken from some person of distinction who resided there, or to whom it belonged. So far back as the twelfth century the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I. to Walter,* the son of Alan; and by a charter of Robert the Bruce, they were confirmed to Sir James de Conyngham, and held by a tenure of feudal and military service, with the payment of L. 11 Sterling, in two equal parts, at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. There is another charter dated 1409, confirming a grant by his kinsman, William de Conyngham to John Turnbull, son of Adam Turnbull of Whitehope of the lands of Hassendean-Bank. From Satchell we learn that David Scott, about 1446, was the first of that name designed of Hassendean, and was the eldest son of Sir William Scott of Kirkurd, who exchanged the lands of Murdiston for those of Branxholme. It is to this old branch of the Scotts that Satchell alludes in the lines,—

“ Hassendean came without a call,
The ancientest house of them all.”

We learn, however, from an entry in the Criminal Trials published by Pitcairn, that there was in 1493 a Walter Talzour Baro de Hassindene; for in that year he was permitted to compound for intercommuning with the English, the Laird of Buccleuch being his surety. A Sir Alexander Scott of Hassendean was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Among the border barons who in 1530 neglected to fulfil their bonds, there was a William Scott of Hassendean, who is again mentioned in 1539, as having been robbed by Thomas Turnbull of Rawflat of some important legal documents; while, farther, in 1564, the Criminal Trials record the slaughter of a David Scott, laird at Hassendean, by William Elliot of Horsliehill. It does not seem to be ascertained at what period the male line of this family failed, though it may perhaps have been at the death of the said David Scott; but in the appendix to

* See Ayloffe's Catalogue, and the Rotuli Scotie.

Satchell it is stated that the lands returned by purchase to the Scotts of Buccleuch, while the representation of the family devolved on William Scott of Burnhead and Crowhill, as lineal male descendant of the first John Scott of Burnhead, younger brother of David of Hassendean, and second son to Sir Walter Scott of Kirkurd. The lands comprised originally in the barony of Hassendean have long been separated; besides that still belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, a part forms the present estate of Teviotbank, another that of Hassendean-burn, while Hassendean-bank, a fourth portion, belonged to the Duke of Roxburghe, and was sold by him to Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto to redeem the land-tax.

Church at Minto and at Hassendean.—Of the church at Minto notice occurs in the fourteenth century; and a curious circumstance respecting it, not easy to be explained, is learned from a charter of Edward III. in 1374, that it at that time belonged to the diocese of Lincoln. When the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I., the church was separately given by him to the Bishop of Glasgow, and before the year 1181 the grant had been confirmed by two Popes, Alexander and Lucius. Shortly afterwards, in 1192, the well known Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow, who had been Abbot of Melrose, gave to the monks of that abbey the church lands and tithes of Hassendean, in pure and perpetual alms, or, as it is expressed, “ad susceptionem pauperum et peregrinorum ad domum de Melros venientium.” The cell built for this purpose was known by the name of the Monk’s Tower, and the land belonging to it, which adjoins the present dwelling-house of Hassendean-burn, is still called the Monk’s Croft. It was restricted by William the Lion to the pasturage of 200 ewes, 16 oxen, and 4 cows.* In 1560,† these religious establishments were abolished, but the church was still continued, and, along with its pertinents, granted to Walter Earl of Buccleuch. In 1576, we find a Thomas Newbye, reader at Hassendean, the whole vicarage being vacant by demission of Mr Thomas Westoun; and from the Criminal Trials we learn that, in 1590, this Newbye, along with

* In 1486, William Douglas, vicar of the kirk at Hassendean, was bound and obliged to “ane venerabil fader in God,” Bernard Abbot of Melrose, not to interfere with the claim of the abbot and convent, to the “erde silver of the quer of the said kirk of Hassendean,” on the ground of their long having been in peaceable possession of “browkyng and joying of the same.”—*Liber de Melros*. This “erde silver of the quer” was the money charged for burial in the choir.

† The “*Liber de Melros*” records the demission of the monastery of Melrose in favour of William, Earl of Morton, to whom was also conveyed the patronage of Hassendean, the deed, signed by James, Commendator of Melrose, bearing the date of 1606.

Thomas Ker in Old Roxburgh, and James Scot of South Synton-mill, was "delated for sustaining of the process of excommunication, and contravening of the acts of Parliament in baptising of bairns and making of marriages without any function." From the presbytery records it appears, that, for some time previous to 1666, attempts had been made to remove the church to Roberton; for of that date there is an entry of the report of a committee to the Archbishop of Glasgow, bearing, that "advantage had been taken of the popularity of the deceased Mary Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom the greater part of the parish belonged, and of the confusions under the late usurpation, to procure a warrant from the same usurpers for changing the seat of the said kirk at Hassendean, and building a new kirk at Roberton, and that they did accordingly build the said new kirk at the west end of said parish." At length in 1690, the church was wholly suppressed, not, however, without so determined an opposition on the part of the parishioners as to make it necessary to call in the aid of the Sheriff of the county, an ancestor of the family of Cavers; and it is related that, on this occasion, an old woman threatened him with the judgment of Heaven on account of his sacrilegious work, denouncing the extinction of the male line of the family. It is to this tradition that Leyden alludes in the lines,

Then circles many a legendary tale
Of Douglas race foredoomed without a male,
To fade unblest, since in the churchyard green,
Its Lord o'erthrew the spires of Hazeldean.—

From the site of the old building being exposed to the encroachments of the Teviot, it became gradually dilapidated, but the churchyard was still continued for burying up to 1796, when an unusually high flood tore open the graves, and made it necessary to remove the remains of the dead. The river has continued to alter its bed, till it appears, from measurements in the possession of the proprietor of Hassendean-burn, that the site of the old church, formerly on a projecting point on the north bank, is now marked by a sand bank on the opposite side, nearly in a line with the termination of a garden wall.

Antiquities.—In common with the greater part of the south of Scotland, this parish formerly contained several towers of strength or border peels, but these, with a fate which has been too frequent, have, for the most part, been removed. That of Horsley-hill has long disappeared, and only a fragment of one wall remains at Hassendean, forming the gable end of a cottage. The tower

at Minto occupied the situation of the present mansion-house, and is named in the list of those which were destroyed by the Earl of Hertford in 1545. The only vestige of any interest which has survived, is a ruin of small size, but considerable strength, placed on the summit of the Craigs, commonly called Fatlips Castle, but from what circumstance does not appear. It is figured in Grose's views in Scotland, and seems at that time to have had a part of the second story left, which is now wanting. It is supposed to have been a stronghold belonging to Turnbull of Barnhills, whose *bed*, or place of outlook, is on a projecting platform immediately beneath; and another tower, also assigned to that noted freebooter, is situated a little to the east, at the boundary between Minto and Ancrum parishes. The old church at Minto, taken down in 1831, was a very plain building, the greater part of which may have been erected since the Reformation; but one end, containing a pointed arch, was evidently more ancient, and some stones built into the walls, and, as it was very curious to observe, with their carved sides uniformly turned inwards, must have belonged to a structure, which, judging by these fragments, had been tastefully ornamented. On removing the foundation of one of the walls, at a few inches from the surface inside the building, and under two small stones placed on end and meeting at top, a collection of about 400 small silver coins was found, chiefly silver pennies, of Edward I. II. III., with one or two of the Scottish Kings Alexander and Robert.* But this place would appear formerly to have been the depositary of more treasure than this; for, from the Criminal Trials before alluded to, we learn that, on the "21st November 1493, John Sinclare in Mynto, and 4 others came in the King's will for treasonably concealing and stouthreif of X^{xx} pas pennys pertaining to the King, found in the

* There is reason to believe that various objects of antiquarian interest are from time to time discovered in this district, many of which are afterwards either destroyed or thrown aside. Two that have recently come into the possession of the writer may be worthy of notice. The one is a silver hoop ring of massive dimensions, weighing six pennyweight ten grains; it is bevelled to fit the tapering of the finger, and had been gilt. It bears the following inscription, terminated by a cross, each letter being contained in a separate square compartment, IHESUS NA. This may signify Jesus of Nazareth, and most probably the ornament was worn by some priest or monk. The other is an ancient seal, in the form of a thin circular plate of copper, an inch and a half in diameter, on which is cut a rude representation of the Paschal Lamb, with the fore legs singularly crossed, surmounted by a banner. Round the margin is the legend S ADEN PASTOREL. The most probable conjecture is, that this was the seal belonging to the individual who had the charge of the flocks of one of the great monastic institutions, inscribed with his name and office. Aden, or Alden, is a name frequently met with in old documents; an individual so called was "Sennescaldus," or Steward at Melrose under the reign of William the Lion, in the twelfth century.

kirk of Mynto," the Laird of Bethroule and William Langlandes becoming their sureties. In a note, the learned editor, Mr Pitcairn, adds, that "these were likely to be ten score 'paces nobiles of paiss,'" English gold coins or nobles, which are frequently mentioned in our old acts of Parliament. Although found in the kirk of Minto, there is no reason to suppose they were "pace" or Easter offerings. There is no doubt that this "pace" was *treasure trove* accidentally turned up and concealed by Sinclare, and as such it belonged to the King, who, on the other hand, could have had no claim to pious Easter offerings made in grateful remembrance of the resurrection." Though no remnant of the old church at Hasendean is now left, some idea of its appearance may be formed from a view in Cardonnell's Etchings representing part of the walls and an arch, which the description says was the "eastern end of the choir, of Saxon architecture, and no inelegant design." The short and massive columns or piers are in the style usually, though not very properly, called Saxon; but the arch, which is rounded, has the Norman zig-zag ornament or chevron. The remains of some other buildings were turned up to the north of the burying-ground when the garden wall now standing was built. It is said that the wood, taken from the ruins of the church, and employed in joisting some out-houses, was found to be Spanish chestnut, which is alleged to be so extensively found in the old ecclesiastical buildings of Scotland, as to countenance the idea of its having been, at one time, generally grown in this country, and to a large size. There is reason, however, to suspect that in most of these cases the timber is that got from the *Quercus sessiliflora*, which in grain and texture bears so close a resemblance to the Spanish chestnut, that it requires a practised eye to distinguish them.

Modern Buildings.—The freestone of the neighbourhood affords a good material, both in colour and durability, and has been employed in several buildings recently erected, all of which show an increased attention to elegance of design. Minto House, from a plan of Archibald Elliot, Esq. architect, is a large and commodious structure, having an imposing effect, to which the situation greatly contributes. The House of Teviotbank has been lately built from a tasteful design, in the old English style, by William Burn, Esq. architect. The manse and church are also new, for which William Playfair, Esq. architect, furnished the drawings;—the first being a Tuscan villa, the latter a Gothic building,

—both of them in a style of art, of which, in Scotland, there are as yet but few examples in works of the same kind.

Heritors.—There are in the parish four heritors,—the Duke of Buccleuch; Earl of Minto; Archibald Dickson, Esq. of Hassendean-burn; William Scott, Esq. of Teviotbank; one non-resident, one constantly resident, and two occasionally so.

Parochial Register.—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is 1703. During last century, entries were made with more regularity than has since been observed. No register is kept of deaths. Marriages, as ascertained from the proclamations, may be stated at 5 yearly.

III.—POPULATION.

The only village, Minto, according to the census of 1831, contains 108 inhabitants, the other parts of the parish, 373,—making together a population of 481; but in 1828, as ascertained by the writer, it amounted to 530. In 1831, the number of families was 95, with 85 inhabited houses.

The population is, of late, rather on the decrease, partly from the enlargement and junction of farms, and the giving up of the nurseries at Hassendean-burn, which, after having been established upwards of a century, have recently been removed to Hawick.

Character of the People.—The people generally are industrious and well-conditioned; individuals, from time to time, rising in their station of life, or enabling their children to do so, by giving them the benefit of a higher education. Chiefly from the improvements in this particular, the language within the last forty years has undergone a considerable change. It is not improbable, that, ere long, the ancient dialect of the district, which has several interesting peculiarities, may become, in a great measure, extinct.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres, standard imperial measure, cultivated or occasionally in pasture, may be computed at 3205; there are 1458 in pasture. Of this, little or none could with advantage be taken into cultivation, while some land, which was at one time ploughed, is now suffered to lie permanently in grass. The improved system of husbandry, and of the rotation of crops, is everywhere in use; bone dust has, of late years, been employed in the growing of turnips; and increasing attention is paid to the draining of the land, which, from the nature of the soil, is productive of the greatest benefit.

Live-Stock.—The short-horn cattle, and the Cheviot and Lei-

cester sheep, are the common breeds. The fences are well kept, and the farm-houses and offices in good repair.

Leases generally run from fifteen to nineteen years.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land may be estimated to be somewhere about 18s. or L. 1 an acre. L. 1, 15s. for an ox or cow, and 6s. for a ewe—are the average rates of grazing for the year.

Wages.—The common rate of country labour for men is 1s. 8d. per day in summer; in winter 1s. 6d. A good deal of farm-work is done by women, who receive from 8d. to 10d. a day, according to the season. Hinds and ploughmen's wages are paid partly in meal, and partly in money. They have also, in general, a spot of ground for growing vegetables; a cow kept for them by their employer, who plants for their use a certain space in the field with potatoes, and drives a fixed quantity of coals. Cottages are sometimes let to labourers, on the condition of their working in harvest, and the hinds are bound to supply workers in the field when wanted, who are called *bondagers*. Men employed in cutting hay have better wages, than when at other day labour. They have been paid, of late years, from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per day. Harvest wages for men, besides victuals and lodging, run from 12s. to 13s. per week, and women's from 11s. to 12s. The rate of payment of masons and carpenters is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. Smiths occasionally do work by contract, that is to say, keep a pair of horses in shoes, and a plough in good repair, for a fixed sum per annum.

Fuel.—From the distance of coal, fuel is an expensive article; L. 1 per ton may be given as the price of coals, and 4s. 6d. per cart of wood, which is a good deal used.

The total rental of the parish may amount somewhere to about L. 3220 per annum.

Produce.—The following may be given as an estimate of the average gross amount of raw produce.

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|---|
| <i>Produce</i> of grain of all kinds, | L. 6014 | 0 | 0 |
| of potatoes, turnips, &c. | 1560 | 0 | 0 |
| of hay, | 290 | 0 | 0 |
| of land in pasture, rated at L. 1, 15s. per cow or full-grown ox, and at 6s. per ewe or full grown sheep, | 1325 | 0 | 0 |
| of gardens and orchards, | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| of thinning and felling wood, | 400 | 0 | 0 |

Total value of raw produce, L. 9689 0 0

Wood.—There are above 786 acres in wood, all of it planted; the trees chiefly grown being oak, ask, elm, spruce, larch, with a few beeches and poplars; of these the oak among the hard-wood seems the best adapted to the soil, making straight and clean shoots,

and attaining a considerable size and age. The management of the plantations is well attended to, more care being bestowed on pruning and thinning than is common in some other parts of the country. Scarcely any of the trees seem to be older than the date of the union, and planting to any extent does not go farther back than the middle of last century. The size of some of the older trees, however, is such as to deserve notice. A silver fir, in the glen below Minto House, has a bole of about 40 feet in length; its girth at $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground is 10 feet 4 inches; 20 feet from the ground, 7 feet 9 inches; and at 40 feet 7 feet. An ash near the house, at 2 feet from the ground, is 14 feet in girth; at 10 feet from the ground, 13 feet; and where it divides into 2 limbs, each of them is 9 feet in circumference. Another ash in the policy measures 100 feet in height; its girth at $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface of the ground is 15 feet, and at 18 feet from the ground $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet. An oak tree was found, at 3 feet from the ground, to be 11 feet in girth, and at 9 feet to be 9 feet. There is a well-grown poplar 90 feet high, with a bole 50 feet long, of which the mean girth is 6 feet. Several beeches have attained a good size. They would seem to have been the first trees planted near mansion-houses in Scotland, and frequently in avenues; they commonly branch out a short way from the ground, but are otherwise of considerable dimensions. One measures 14 feet round, at 3 feet from the surface. The most remarkable trees, however, in this place are some larches, planted on the top and sides of the glen below Minto House, and, it may be remarked, over the sandstone rock, which in this instance has had none of the hurtful effects, ascribed to it by some writers, to wood of this species. One of the finest and most characteristic in its appearance, close to the pond side, is 80 feet high, and at 3 feet from the ground measures 11 feet in girth; at 20 feet from the ground 8 feet; and at 40 feet, where it parts into two tops of considerable dimensions, 7 feet in circumference. Though of less bulk on the whole, a number are taller, reaching 100 feet in height and upwards; at 25 feet from the ground, they average 6 feet in girth, and have a clean and straight bole, varying from 40 to 60 feet long. The noble and picturesque character of the oldest of these trees cannot be judged of by those who have only seen the larch as a thin sapling, drawn up in a crowded and choked plantation, or stunted in some bleak hedgerow, and bending from the wind. When in a favourable situation, and properly treated, it is not less noble and ornamental, than it is valuable from the useful and durable

qualities of the timber. When suffered to assume its natural form, which takes place here, it flings out bold and vigorous side branches, starting off from the main stem, and then bending upwards with a free and stately sweep, while the slender spray hangs in long lines, yielding to the breeze, with its bright lively green, in early spring beautifully contrasted with the rich brown of the bark, which is sometimes varied by a white and yellowish lichen, and is cut into rough and deep furrows. An account of the planting of these trees has been already given; there are good grounds to believe that they are at present one hundred years old.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The parish roads extend to nearly fourteen miles, and have, of late years, been much improved in keeping; the outlay has generally been from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 Sterling on each L. 100 Scots, which, as the valuation of the parish is L. 5163, 4s. Scots, allows an annual assessment of from L. 80 to L. 100 Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, which is the only one, and is attended by the great bulk of the population, affords accommodation for 350 persons, exclusive of a private gallery belonging to the Earl of Minto. The average number of communicants is 160.

Poor.—For the last twenty years and upwards, there has been very little difference either in the number of persons receiving parochial aid, or the allowance made to them. The average of persons may be stated at 8, and the sum allocated to each L. 7. They have, of late, been chiefly aged persons, and non-resident. The church collections for the poor, together with the interest arising from a mortification of L. 50, amount to L. 10, 10s. 10d. yearly.

Education.—Sewing is taught by a female, who also gives some elementary instruction to the younger children; besides this, there is only the parish school, which last year was attended by 112 scholars. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, Latin, and French. The teacher has the maximum salary, with the interest of a mortification of L. 100. He acts as clerk to the heritors and kirk-session.

There are neither ale-houses nor tolls in the parish, nor, for some time past, has there been any resident pauper on the poor's roll.

October 1838.

PARISH OF KIRKTOUN.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. WILLIAM S. MARTIN, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE parish of Kirkton extends from east to west about 8 miles, and from north to south about 2 miles. It is bounded on all sides by the parish of Cavers: on the west it is partly bounded also by the parish of Hawick; and on the north-east, by that of Hobkirk.

Topographical Appearances.—Its general appearance to the east of the river Slitrig, which intersects it, presents an undulating surface of little green hills, partly adapted to pasturage, but interspersed also with a good deal of arable land, cultivated according to the modern improvements in agriculture; and had it also been diversified with plantations, of which it is nearly destitute, these would not only have rendered it much more beautiful and interesting, but would likewise have been of immense benefit, by affording shelter to the flocks. On the west of Slitrig, the surface rises immediately from the banks of the river to a considerable height, and the elevation continues to increase to the extremity of the western boundary.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The only remarkable thing under this head, is a vein of rock, which is supposed by some to extend in a line from east to west, from Northumberland to the lower districts of Lanarkshire. There is a quarry of this rock in the vicinity of the church, and metal better suited for making and repairing roads cannot easily be found. It is of a very dark blackish hue, hard and compact, and of a considerable specific gravity.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are four land-owners or proprietors, none of whom are resident in the parish, viz. Sir William Francis Elliot, Bart. of Stobs and Wells; James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers; Archibald Douglas, Esq. of Adderstone; and Andrew Dickson, Esq. of Tofts.

Eminent Men.—The celebrated orientalist, Dr Leyden, received part of the rudiments of his education at Kirkton school. His parents, at that time, occupied a cottage on the farm of Nether Tofts, called Henlawshiel; of which scarcely any trace can now be

discovered. A near relation of Mr Blythe, the present tenant of Tofts, kindly assisted in defraying the expenses of his school wages, little thinking, no doubt, at that time, of the eminent station at which the object of his benevolence was destined afterwards to arrive.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| In 1811, the population was | 287 |
| 1821, | 315 |
| 1831, | 294 |
| 1836, | 381 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of families in the parish, | 56 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 39 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | 5 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Since the last Statistical Account was given in, the produce has greatly increased, and many enclosures have been made by building dry-stone dikes, planting hedges, &c. On the farm of Kirktown alone, fences have been made to the extent of upwards of 1700 roods during the last eight years; and by the application of lime, the soil has been meliorated, and the rent greatly advanced.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no town or village, no public-house or toll-bar within the parish. Hawick, which is situated at the distance of a few miles from the most remote district of the parish, is the post and market-town. The roads from Hawick to Newcastle and Liddesdale, pass through the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated inconveniently, being too near to the eastern extremity, while the majority of the population reside in the western district. The church is in a very bad state of repair, and the period of its erection is unknown. The manse is also much decayed.

From the relative situation of the parishes of Kirktown and Cavers, several families belonging to the latter attend divine service at Kirktown.

Education.—There is a school and schoolmaster's house in the neighbourhood of the church. The school is well attended. A considerable number of the scholars are, however, from Cavers parish.

Poor.—There are 5 paupers on the roll, one of whom was admitted in November last. The collections at the church are so small, that the poor are entirely supported by an assessment on the heritors and tenants. For several half years bypast, the assessment amounted to about L. 10, 10s.; the present half-year, it is a little higher.

May 1838.

PARISH OF KIRKTOUN.

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May 1838.

PARISH OF HAWICK.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. J. A. WALLACE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN the oldest documents to which we have had access the orthography of Hawick is but slightly different from what it is at the present time, and on that account there is less room for diversity of opinion as to the origin of the name. It is remarked by Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, that the town is probably as ancient as the Saxon settlers, whose chief built the mansion of his manor on the curve of the Slitridge; and proceeding upon this fact, he considers the name to be purely Saxon,—*Haw*, as he states, on the authority of Somner, signifying in the Anglo-Saxon, *mansis*, *mansus*, a mansion-house, and *wic*, denoting, among other significations, the curving reach of a river where hamlets were formerly built. An opinion somewhat similar to this is expressed by the writer of the former Statistical Account, for he observes that Hawick may be derived either from the Celtic, *ha*, a mansion, and *wic*, the crook or conflux of rivers; or from the Saxon, *haf*, the same with our halved, and *wick*, a common termination for a village supposed to be formed from the Latin, *vicus*; to either of which derivations its situation agrees, as the river Teviot washes the side of it towards the north, and the smaller river Slitridge divides it nearly into two equal parts. It may also be mentioned, in addition to these conjectures, that there are places in the vicinity of the town, known by the names of the Common Haugh, the Little Haugh, and the Haugh-head; and as the town is built partly upon one of these haughs, it is suggested, that the name may be compounded of the Scotch, *haugh*, synonymous with the Gaelic, *augh*, and derived, as is supposed, from the old Teutonic *auwe*, signifying a piece of low-lying flat ground, and *wijck*, which, in the same dialect, denotes *fluminis sinus*, the curving beach of a river. This last etymology, while no less appropriate than the others to the locality of the town, is rendered still more plausible by a reference to the ancient war-cry of the inhabitants, which consisted of the words, “Tiribus

and Tirioden,"—a phrase which, being retained from the age of the Saxons, or borrowed from the Danes of the neighbouring district of Northumberland, who have left many words on the border, is allied, as Dr Jamieson supposes, to the Anglo-Saxon, *Tir* or *Tyr*, which denotes one of the Teutonic deities, and according to some the son of Odin; and hence, the first word may be understood as making tolerably good Anglo-Saxon, *Tyr hæbbe us*, may Tyr have us in his keeping, whilst the other conjoins the names of Tyr and Odin, whose united aid is supposed to be invoked.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish extends upwards of $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, somewhat more on an average than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and contains about 24 square miles, or 15,360 imperial acres. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Robertson and Wilton; on the east, by the parish of Cavers; on the south, by Cavers and Kirkcubright; and on the west, by Eskdalemuir and Westerkirk, in the county of Dumfries.

Topographical Appearances.—The scenery, especially when viewed from the lower grounds, if not distinguished by much variety or magnificence, is nevertheless singularly interesting and beautiful. A sinuous valley passes downwards through the whole extent of the parish, contracted for the most part within narrow limits, and bordered on either side by a range of hills, which rise in some places to a considerable height, covered to their summits with the finest verdure, and presenting an outline more remarkable for its gracefulness than for the wild and rugged features which are usually characteristic of mountain scenery. This vale is beautified and enlivened with the windings of the "sweet and silver Teviot," which, taking its rise at the western extremity of the parish, meanders for a few miles through a district of green pastures, untouched apparently by the hand of art, and lying in all the beautiful simplicity of nature. Joined by the Allan and other tributary streams, it then enters into a richer district, passing over ground celebrated in story and in song, gliding with a solemn melody between the once festive halls of Branksome and the massive peel of Goldielands; then, meeting the impetuous waters of the Borthwick, it skirts the town of Hawick, and, flowing onwards to the distance of about two miles beyond it, leaves the parish at its eastern extremity.

In a direction somewhat angular to the course of the Teviot, there is another vale not less interesting than the other, though characterized by an air of greater wildness and seclusion. This forms the bed of the river Slitridge, which crosses the parish in a

northerly direction to the distance of more than two miles, occasionally flowing with great rapidity over a very rugged channel, which, in some places, is skirted with banks of bare rock, rising almost perpendicularly to a considerable elevation, and crowned with plantations of young wood, which add not a little to the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The Slitridge falls into the Teviot immediately after passing through the town, which it divides into two parts, the one stretching to the east along the banks of the united stream, and the other rising on the slope of an adjoining hill to the west, which gives to it an appearance exceedingly picturesque when seen from a little distance, or viewed from any of the higher grounds that encompass it on every side.

These pastoral vales, with the streams that flow through them, form the features in the scenery which present themselves most prominently to observation, the road to Langholm passing through the one, and that to Liddesdale through the other. In these vales, however, the prospect, though beautiful, is exceedingly limited. But, from the mountain ranges which rise between them, the view becomes as different as it is extensive. All around, the spectator finds himself environed with a vast panorama of hills, rising over and beyond one another as far as the eye can reach, presenting the most interesting diversities of form, now darkened, now illuminated, by the ever-shifting variations of sunshine and of shade, and all pervaded with an air of such profound solitude and stillness as can scarce fail to awaken in the mind mingled emotions of pleasure and of awe.

Meteorology.—From a journal kept by Mr Scott at Silverbit-hall, in the neighbourhood of the town, we have drawn up the following meteorological tables for 1837. The first exhibits the mean together with the highest and lowest range both of the barometer and thermometer in each of the months; the second, the mean of the barometer and thermometer for the seasons, and for the whole year; and the third, the number of days in which the weather was fair, rainy, frosty or snowy.

No. I.

| Mean. | Barometer. | | 1837. Months. | Mean. | Thermometer. | |
|-------|------------|---------|------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| | Highest. | Lowest. | | | Highest. | Lowest. |
| 29.49 | 30.40 | 28.25 | January. | 38.74 | 44° | 33° |
| 28.33 | 30.30 | 28. | February. | 43.64 | 47 | 38 |
| 29.59 | 30.30 | 28.50 | March. | 43.77 | 46 | 38 |
| 29.38 | 30.35 | 28.65 | April. | 45.43 | 51 | 42 |

| Mean. | Barometer. | | 1837. Months. | Mean. | Thermometer. | |
|-------|------------|---------|------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| | Highest. | Lowest. | | | Highest. | Lowest. |
| 29.55 | 30.10 | 28.65 | May, | 52.80 | 58° | 48° |
| 29.65 | 30.20 | 28.85 | June, . | 62.63 | 70 | 56 |
| 29.68 | 30.20 | 28.55 | July, | 65.11 | 71 | 60 |
| 30.77 | 30.25 | 28.90 | August, . | 63.54 | 71 | 58 |
| 29.53 | 30.25 | 28.60 | September, | 56.80 | 62 | 54 |
| 29.61 | 30.50 | 28.25 | October, | 54.17 | 60 | 40 |
| 28.27 | 30.15 | 28.10 | November, | 43.11 | 48 | 40 |
| 29.48 | 30.35 | 28.50 | December, | 44.54 | 50 | 38 |

No II.

| Mean of Barometer. | 1837. | Mean of Thermometer. |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 29.10 . | Spring. . | 44.28 |
| 29.61 : | Summer. . | 60.18 |
| 29.97 . | Autumn. . | 58.17 |
| 29.08 . | Winter. . | 42.13 |
| 29.44 | Annual. | 51.19 |

No. III.

| Months. | Fair. | Rainy. | Frosty. | Snowy. |
|------------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| January, | 6 . | 5 . | 17 . | 3 |
| February, | 9 . | 12 . | 3 . | 4 |
| March, | 5 . | 3 . | 16 . | 7 |
| April, | 6 . | 7 . | 5 . | 12 |
| May, | 19 . | 11 . | 0 . | 1 |
| June, | 19 . | 10 . | 1 . | 0 |
| July, | 17 . | 14 . | 0 . | 0 |
| August, | 21 . | 9 . | 1 . | 0 |
| September, | 18 . | 12 . | 0 . | 0 |
| October, | 12 . | 12 . | 5 . | 2 |
| November, | 12 . | 12 . | 4 . | 2 |
| December, | 11 . | 15 . | 3 . | 2 |
| Total, | 155 | 122 | 55 | 38 |

We may here state, on the authority of Drs Graham and Blyth, a few particulars respecting the more prevalent diseases of the district. Between thirty and forty years ago, ague prevailed so extensively, that nearly a third of the country population was generally labouring under it during the greater part of the year, but the extensive drainage of land, together with an improved system of agriculture, seems entirely to have banished this complaint. The more ordinary febrile diseases continue to occur in the same ratio as before, and in some of the higher parts of the parish, where the atmosphere is more humid, fevers of a typhoid type and often of great malignancy, are frequently met with. On the whole, however, the diseases, both in the town and landward part of the parish, are generally of a sthenic inflammatory character, though by no means of very extensive prevalence.

The town was twice visited with pestilential cholera. Its introduction and progress here were as unaccountable as they have been in many other places, and the rate of mortality was nearly as

high. It first appeared in the spring of 1832, when only a few cases occurred, but in the autumn of the same year it again broke out, and continued to rage for four or five weeks. Of nearly 70 cases that occurred during this period about 30 died.

There is another disease which is endemic in certain localities, more especially in Derbyshire and in some districts of Switzerland, of which a good many cases have occurred in this parish. It is technically called Bronchocele, and consists of an enlargement of the thyroid gland, inducing great difficulty of breathing, but seldom proving fatal. Some families are more subject to it than others.

Hydrography.—Of the springs which everywhere abound in this parish, it may be mentioned, that there are three on the confines of the Carlisle road, and at the distance of about a mile from the town, which, though rising in the immediate vicinity of each other, afford water distinguished by qualities altogether different. One is obviously calcareous, as appears from the deposit on the rocks over which it passes. Another yields water of the purest description, free apparently from every foreign admixture. And the third is a weak chalybeate, frequently made use of for its medicinal qualities by the inhabitants of the town, and believed by them in many instances to have proved beneficial. These different springs rise within the space of 200 yards, proceeding apparently from the same kind of rocks, and passing through the same kind of soil.

Inundation.—An inundation, which usually receives here the designation of “Hawick Flood,” forms quite an era in the history of this place. This event, which occurred in August 1767, was occasioned by a fall of rain about the source of the Slitridge no less copious than sudden, for in the course of two hours the river where it passes through the town had risen upwards of twenty feet, and in the space of a similar period, had sunk again to its usual level, leaving, however, the traces of considerable devastation, the walls of the manse garden being broken down, the parish school and a corn-mill destroyed, and an entire street completely swept from its foundations, whilst the lives of two individuals were lost, and many others endangered, by the violence of the torrent.

Geology.—There is little that is specially deserving of notice in the geology of this parish. The rocks consist of greywacke. Their direction is south-east and north-west, and the strata, though rising nearly perpendicular, have a south-west dip or inclination.

A dike, of a quality somewhat different from the others, runs in a direction nearly from east to west, from Rink, in the parish of Jedburgh, to Whitslaid, in the parish of Ashkirk, passing this parish in the same direction, cutting the other strata obliquely, and preserving in every part where visible the same thickness of about fifteen feet. The rock appears of a bluish grey colour when taken from the quarry, but when long exposed to the atmosphere, acquires a yellowish tinge, whilst it seems in many places penetrated by small holes, which in all probability may be occasioned by the iron that enters into its composition. From its hardness and durability it forms an excellent material for roads, to which purpose it is generally applied. The soil along the banks of the streams is for the most part gravelly, and on the other arable lands a light loam : there is scarcely any clayey soil in the parish.

Zoology.—The following is a list of insects found in the parish.

I. COLEOPTERA.

Dromius quadrimaculatus
Carabus arvensis
 *cancellatus*
 *violaceus*
 *hortensis*
Badister bipustulatus
Bradytus ferrugineus
Peryphus agilis
Lopha quadriguttata
Hydroporus alpinus
Colymbetes bipunctatus
 *maculatus*
Dytiscus marginalis
Acilius sulcatus
Gyrinus minutus
Elmis Volkmar
Sphæridium marginatum
Necrophorus mortuorum
Silpha opaca
Micropeplus staphylinoides
Attagenus pellio
Serica brunnea
Elatér niger
 *minutus*
Ctenicérus pectinicornis
 *cupreus*
Selatosomus seneus
Atopa cervina
Lampyrus noctiluca
Malthinus biguttulus
Hylurgus piniperda
Amalus scortillum
Hypera rumicis
 *nigrirostris*
 *arator*
Leiosoma punctata
Hylobius abietis
Otiorhynchus tenebricosus
Strophosomus coryli
 *limbatus*

Phyllobius argentatus
Salpingus planirostris
Donacia cincta
Galeruca tanacetii
Luperus rufipes
Haltica nemorum
Phædon tumidula
Chrysomela fastuosa
 *litura*
 *staphylæa*
 *polita*
 *sanguinolenta*
 *hyperici*
Helodes beccabungæ
Coccinella quatuordecimguttata
 *oblongoguttata*
 *dispar*
Anthicus fuscus
Staphylinus pubescens
Goërius olens
Othius fulgidus
Anthobium grossum

II. LEPIDOPTERA.

Sphinx porcellus
Phalæna gamma
 *chi*
 *iota*
 *menthrastiri*
 *psi*
 *viridana*
 *chærophyllata*
 *humuli*
 *oxyacanthæ*
 *maura*
 *cratægata*
 *caja*
 *vinula*
 *grossulariata*
Papilio semele
 *urticæ*

Papilio Artaxerxes
 Vanessa Io
 ----- Atalanta
 ----- hortica
 Pontia crategi
 ----- brassica
 ----- cardamines

Hipparchia Megæra
 ----- Janira
 ----- hyperanthus
 ----- blandina
 ----- pamphilus
 Argynnis Euphrosyne

Botany.—Of indigenous plants, the following have been found in the parish :

Veronica beccabunga
 ----- agrestis
 Anthoxanthum odoratum
 Valeriana officinalis
 ----- dioica
 Eriophorum polystachion
 Iris pseud-acorus
 Schoenus nigricans
 Scirpus lacustris
 Phleum pratense
 Alopecurus pratensis
 ----- agrestis
 ----- geniculatus
 Agrostis stolonifera
 ----- canina
 Aira cæspitosa
 Poa trivialis
 ----- annua
 Briza media
 Dactylis glomerata
 Cynosurus cristatus
 Festuca ovina
 Avena fatua
 ----- pratensis
 Arundo phragmites
 Lolium perenne
 Triticum repens
 Scabiosa succisa
 Asperula odorata
 Galium verum
 ----- palustre
 ----- aparine
 Plantago lanceolata
 ----- major
 Alchemilla vulgaris
 Primula veris
 Menyanthes trifoliata
 Euonymus Europæus
 Chenopodium bonus Henricus
 Gentiana campestris
 Conium maculatum
 Heracleum sphondylium
 Parnassia palustris
 Linum catharticum
 Allium ursinum
 Anthericum serotinum
 Juncus effusus
 ----- articulatus
 Rumex acutus
 ----- obtusifolius
 ----- acetosella
 Epilobium montanum
 Erica vulgaris
 ----- cinerea
 ----- tetralix

Polygonum amphibium
 Pyrola rotundifolia
 Saxifraga granulata
 Stellaria nemorum
 Sedum reflexum
 ----- acre
 Oxalis acetosella
 Lychnis flos cuculi
 Cerastium vulgatum
 Agrimonia eupatoria
 Euphorbia peplis
 Sempervivum tectorum
 Prunus padus
 ----- spinosa
 Rosa spinosissima
 ----- canina
 Rubus idæus
 ----- fruticosus
 ----- chamæmorus
 Fragaria vesca
 Geum urbanum
 ----- rivale
 Comarum palustre
 Spiræa ulmaria
 Chelidonium majus
 Anemone nemorosa
 Ranunculus ficaria
 ----- bulbosus
 Trollius Europæus
 Caltha palustris
 Ajuga reptans
 Mentha pulegium
 Stachys palustris
 Thymus serpyllum
 Lamium album
 ----- purpureum
 Prunella vulgaris
 Rhinanthus crista-galli
 Euphrasia officinalis
 Melampyrum sylvaticum
 Scrophularia nodosa
 Sinapis arvensis
 ----- nigra
 Malva moschata
 Fumaria officinalis
 Polygala vulgaris
 Ulex Europæus
 Ononis arvensis
 Orobus tuberosus
 ----- sylvaticus
 Lathyrus pratensis
 Vicia sylvatica
 Trifolium repens
 ----- pratense
 Lotus corniculatus

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> |
| ——— <i>montanum</i> | <i>Quercus robur</i> |
| <i>Tragopogon pratense</i> | <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> | <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> |
| <i>Leontodon Taraxacum</i> | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> |
| <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> |
| <i>Arotium lappa</i> | <i>Equisetum palustre</i> |
| <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | <i>Pteris aquilina</i> |
| <i>Gnaphalium dioicum</i> | <i>Cardamine amara</i> |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | <i>Adoxa moschatellina</i> |
| <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> | <i>Vinca minor</i> |
| ——— <i>Jacobæa</i> | <i>Potentilla fragariastrum</i> |
| <i>Bellis perennis</i> | ——— <i>reptans</i> |
| <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> |
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | <i>Arenaria verna</i> |
| <i>Centaurea nigra</i> | <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> |
| <i>Viola tricolor</i> | <i>Helianthemum vulgare</i> |
| <i>Orchis morio</i> | <i>Geranium lucidum</i> |
| ——— <i>mascula</i> | ——— <i>sylvaticum</i> |
| ——— <i>latifolia</i> | <i>Tormentilla officinalis</i> |
| ——— <i>maculata</i> | ——— <i>reptans</i> |
| <i>Betula alba</i> | <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> |
| <i>Urtica urens</i> | ——— <i>oxycoccos</i> |
| ——— <i>dioica</i> | <i>Viola hirta</i> |
| <i>Salix viminalis</i> | ——— <i>palustris</i> |

The largest tree in the parish is an ash on the lawn at Branxholm Castle. It measures 13 feet in circumference at 4½ feet from the ground, while the stem rises about 16 feet before it diverges into branches.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The barony of Hawick appears in Robertson's Index among the many charters which were granted in the reign of Robert the Bruce, previous to which we have not been able to obtain any satisfactory information as to the civil history of this parish. Along with Sprouston it was granted to Thomas Murray by David II. and descended during the reign of the same monarch to Maurice de Moravia, Earl of Strathearn. According to Chalmers it appears in 1357 as a burgh of regality. About the beginning of the fifteenth century it became the property of Sir William Douglas, one of the ancestors of the Queensberry family. This celebrated individual who, according to Hume of Godscroft, was an illegitimate son of James Earl of Douglas, Lord of Liddesdale and Drumlanrig, seems to have signalized himself in no small degree by his gallant services against the English on the Scottish border, in consequence of which he obtained a charter from James I., confirming to him the lands of Hawick, together with those of Selkirk and Drumlanrig.*

* The original charter, a copy of which is preserved in Anderson's collection, was written by the King's own hand, while a prisoner of Henry IV. of England, and runs thus: "Jamis, throw the grace of God, King of Scottis, tie all that this lettre hereis or

From Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, a lineal descendant of the above-mentioned knight, the town of Hawick received its present charter. This was granted in 1537, and confirmed by Queen Mary in 1545. It appears from the charter, which is rather a curious document, though too voluminous to be transcribed, that the town had existed as a free burgh of barony from an early date; that the ancient rights had, however, been destroyed amid the turmoils of the border wars; and that, to prevent the evils likely to ensue from the loss of such documents, the new charter was granted, confirming to the town the lands which they had formerly enjoyed, authorizing the burgesses to elect bailies and officers for the government of the burgh, and investing the magistrates with the power of receiving resignations of lands, or granting seisin of the same, according to agreement of parties.

After the granting of this charter, the barony of Hawick still remained for a considerable time in possession of the same family. For in 1639 the charter of James I. already quoted, was confirmed by the Privy-Council of Scotland, in favour of Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, who, besides inheriting the estates of his ancestors, was raised to the dignity of the peerage, being created Earl of Queensberry, Viscount of Drumlanrig, and Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibbers.

At a later period the barony of Hawick descended to the barons of Buccleuch, who seem to have exercised a seignorial authority over their feudatories till 1747, when hereditary jurisdictions being abolished by act of Parliament, the Duke of Buccleuch, as appears from the manuscript of the original return, received L. 400 in compensation for the regality.

Though holding a less conspicuous place than other towns in the district, Hawick has not been altogether undistinguished in the annals of border warfare. According to Harding, it was burnt down in 1418 by Sir Robert Umfranville, Vice-Admiral of England, and Governor of Berwick. It is likewise believed to have suffered severely in 1544, when, along with other districts, the whole of

*seis sendis grytinge; Wit ye that we have grauntit, and be this presentis lettre grauntis, a speciall confirmatiune, in the most forme, tie oure traiste and well be-
lofit cosyng, Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, of all the landis that he is possessit
and chartrit of within the kyngdome of Scotlande, that is for to say, the landis of
Drumlanrig, of Hawyke, and of Selkirke, the whilkis chartis and possessiouns be this
lettre we conferme, and will for the mare sekuries this oure confirmatiune be for-
mabill after the fourme of oure chaunsellure and the tenor of his chartris selit with
oure grete sele in tyme to come; In witness of the whilkis this presentis lettre we
wrote with oure propre hande, under the signet usit in selying of oure lettres, as now
at Croidoune the last daie of November the yer of oure Lorde 1412."*

Teviotdale was laid waste by Sir Ralph Evers and Sir Brian Latoun. Nor did it escape in 1570 ; for to prevent its occupation by the troops of the Earl of Surrey, the inhabitants themselves tore the thatch from the roofs of the houses, and set fire to it in the streets, by which, with the exception of Don Lamoreck's Castle or the Black Tower of Hawick, the whole town was completely destroyed. And, whether from the invasion of English armies, or from intestine feuds, no less fatal and calamitous among the lawless clans of the border, it seems to have been involved, during the course of many centuries, in a state of almost perpetual war. This state of matters, it is not to be doubted, has had its influence in imparting even to the architecture of the town, a somewhat interesting and peculiar character. For amid the many buildings which, in accordance with the spirit of modern improvement, have been erected in every part of the town, there are still standing a few venerable structures, which are not only interesting from their antiquity, but which, whilst occupied as ordinary dwelling-houses, have evidently been constructed as places of security and defence, amid the troubles of a warlike age. These ancient tenements are built on arches of rough whinstone, whilst the walls are of massive thickness, almost defying injury from fire, and capable of being stoutly defended, and though they certainly present a somewhat rugged exterior, they seem internally to have been planned with no small degree of ingenuity, and must in troublous times have afforded accommodation to a considerable number of families.

The same causes which gave rise to this peculiar species of architecture have had their influence in moulding the general character of the population, and thereby impressing upon them certain peculiarities, which, though gradually disappearing like the rough masonry of those ancient buildings, are yet sufficiently obvious to arrest the notice of any careful observer. The truth is, the border spirit, a spirit certainly more congenial with the usages of a ruder and less enlightened age than the present, is not altogether extinct. And we doubt much, if a community could be found elsewhere, more jealous than they are of what they conceive to be their own rights, more keen and indefatigable in the working out of what they reckon to be their own interests, and more determined in asserting at all hazards what they deem to be essential to their own independence. Anything like a spirit of vassalage to any man, or to any class of men, how elevated soever in rank, is what they cannot brook, and

any attempt, from whatever quarter, to interfere with their ancient or established privileges is sure to be strongly and almost universally resisted. There are, moreover, few places where less attention is paid to the ordinary distinctions of rank, or where all classes are more disposed to associate together on the footing of equality. And with respect to the ordinary business of life, they exhibit a spirit of activity, and enterprize, and intelligence, which, setting every difficulty at defiance, is productive of the most important results. In short, there are elements of character amongst them, which, if subject to the influence of religious principle and properly directed, might raise them to a very high point in the scale of moral and intellectual improvement, but which otherwise are not unlikely to carry them, as they have sometimes done in seasons of political excitement, into excesses, which no right-minded man can contemplate with any other than a feeling of unqualified condemnation.

Eminent Men.—Gavin Douglas, no less celebrated for his poetical genius than for the nobleness of his birth, was admitted rector of Hawick in 1496. Of the works which entitle him to a high place in the ranks of our Scottish poets the most valuable now extant are the *Palice of Honour*, *King Hart*, and a translation of the *Æneid* of Virgil; and these, it is believed, were produced during his incumbency in this parish. From his superior talents as well as the great influence of the family with which he was connected, being son of Archibald, the celebrated Earl of Angus, he was eventually promoted to some of the most important situations in the church, being appointed, at different periods, Provost of the Collegiate Church of St Giles in Edinburgh, Abbot of Aberbrothock, and Bishop of Dunkeld. He was likewise nominated Archbishop of St Andrews, but was prevented, by the violent ambition of other ecclesiastics, from entering on the duties of this high office. From the various persecutions to which he was subjected in those unsettled times, he was under the necessity of seeking an asylum in London, where he died of the plague in 1522, about the forty-eighth year of his age, and was buried in the Savoy Church.

For profound learning, independence of character, and extensive charity, the Rev. Alexander Orrock deserves also to be held in grateful remembrance. Whilst holding the rank of a probationer, he signalised himself by his stedfast adherence to Presbyterian principles, in consequence of which he was at one time subjected to imprisonment, and at another interdicted from the discharge of

his sacred functions. After the Revolution he became minister of this parish, and in 1701 he received a call to Kelso, which was sustained first by the presbytery and afterwards by the synod; but his translation being strongly opposed by the heritors, elders, and parishioners in general, and the matter being carried ultimately to the General Assembly, it was agreed, in compliance with Mr Orrock's desire, that his connection with this parish should not be dissolved; and accordingly he continued to labour here faithfully and with acceptance till the period of his death. He left 9000 merks Scots for the endowment of a grammar school, 1600 merks for the poor, four silver communion cups, and a baptismal basin for the service of the church, with a very valuable and extensive library to his successors in the parochial charge.*

Nor can we forbear reference to the high character and usefulness of Dr John Young, minister of the Antiburgher congregation in this place from 1767 to 1806. Giving himself to the discharge of his sacred duties with a mind at once stored with the treasures of theology, and possessed of extensive acquirements in general knowledge, he not only attained considerable celebrity as a preacher amongst the members of his own communion, but his published writings, and especially his *Essays on Government*, for which he obtained a pension, part of which is still enjoyed by his family, are believed, by their sound views and force of argument, to have exerted a powerful influence in checking the progress of infidel and revolutionary principles, and contributing, at the same time, to the best interests of the community.

* A mural tablet was erected to his memory, bearing the following inscription, which is now in a great measure obliterated, but which it is hoped the heritors will renew in the event of the church being repaired.

Siste Viator.

Hic jacet corpus Domini Alexandri Orrock,
Verbi Divini in Ecclesia Havico fidelissimus.

Vir erat vere eximius.

In vitiosis reclamandis summe auidax.

Ob multifariam eruditionem et vitæ innocentiam

Doctis piisq. viris admodum probatus.

In disciplina ecclesiastica æqualium nemini secundus.

Qui annos XXII officio pastorali hac in Ecclesia functus,

In usum Scholæ publicæ novem mille,

Et pauperum indigentium mille et sexcentas marcas

Testamento designavit.

Tandem obdormivit in Domino

Annum ægens sexagesimum

Æræ Christianæ MDCCXI. Kal. Maii.

Ps. cxii. 9.

Dispersit largiens pauperibus :

Semper ejus liberalitas stabit.

A History of Hawick, to which we have been indebted for a few facts embodied in this Account, was published in 1825 by the late Mr Robert Wilson, a native of the town.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners in the parish are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Benjamin T. G. Anderson, Esq. of Tushielaw; William Turnbull, Esq. of Fenwick; Allan E. Lockhart, Esq. of Borthwickbrae; James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers; James Dickson, Esq. of Alton; James Oliver, Esq. of Burnflat; James Dickson, Esq. of Housebyres; and the Town of Hawick. The Duke of Buccleuch is proprietor of nearly nine-tenths of the parish.

Parochial Registers.—The register of births commences in 1634, and is continued to the present time, with the exception of two intervals, the one occurring between 1657 and 1669, and the other between 1750 and 1756.

The register of marriages is defective in several places, but is complete from 1699 to 1730, from 1751 to 1800, and from 1834 to the present time.

The register of deaths was begun in 1755, and has been regularly kept ever since.

The register of money transactions commences in 1724, and has been carried down without interruption till now.

The records of the kirk-session are very defective. From 1700 to 1704, from 1751 to 1768, and from 1786 to 1798 the entries have been made with considerable regularity, but with these exceptions, and a few isolated fragments, there has been no continuous record till recently.

In looking into these parochial registers one or two points present themselves to notice, which it may not be superfluous to record.

1st. Collections were repeatedly made, about the beginning of last century, for the erection of churches in the north, and in other places destitute of the means and opportunities of religious worship, which shows that the extension of the church, even in those days, was not regarded as a matter of indifference.

2d. Considerable sums were expended by the kirk-session in the support of probationers recommended by the General Assembly, and also in the education of young men for the ministry, there being at least six bursars connected with the parish between 1725 and 1740, from which we infer that active measures were adopted, not merely for the erection of places of worship, but for the rearing of an ample and efficient ministry.

3d. The cases of gross immorality which occurred during the course of about thirty years before the Revolution, and when Episcopacy was predominant, were about double the number that took place during the course of thirty years after it, and when Presbytery was restored, which may justify the conclusion, that the exercise of discipline according to the constitution of the Church of Scotland is of signal efficacy in restraining the excesses of profligacy and crime.

4th. The kirk-session, in compliance with recommendations from the superior courts, were in the frequent practice of setting apart days for public fasting and thanksgiving, having special reference among other matters to the purity and preservation of the Protestant religion, which wholesome practice must have tended in no small degree to foster in the minds of the people that strong antipathy to the abominations of Popery which prevailed so extensively during the course of last century, and which, though unhappily disappearing amid the liberalism of the present times, we cannot help regarding as one of the best safeguards both of scriptural truth and religious liberty.

Antiquities.—Situated at the upper extremity of the town, and overlooking the main street, there is a relic of great antiquity, which is usually denominated the Moat. This consists of an artificial mound of earth, which is circular at the base, while it rises in a conical form to the height of 30 feet, and is almost flat upon the top. It contains about 4060 cubic yards, whilst the circumference is 117 feet at the top, and 312 at the base. Like tumuli of a similar description which are to be met with in other places, it is supposed by some to have been used at a distant period as a court for the administration of justice, and by others as a place of assembly, where the chiefs of the district held their deliberations on public affairs. The probability is, that it was employed for both of these purposes, and this supposition, whilst justified by local tradition, is strengthened by the authority both of Pennant and of Sir Walter Scott, although they trace the word to a somewhat different origin, the one alleging that *Mot* in the Gaelic language signifies a court, and the other suggesting that in the Anglo-Saxon it may be translated *concilium, conventus*.

The vestiges of several towers or border peels are still remaining in different parts of the parish. One of the most ancient of these places of strength now forms a part of the Tower-Inn, celebrated as the residence in former times of the Barons of Drum-

lanrig, and, at a later period, of Anne Duchess of Buccleuch and Monmouth, whose unfortunate husband was beheaded in 1685. This tower, which was anciently surrounded with a deep moat drawn from the Slitridge, was the only building in the town which escaped the devastation of 1570.

Another of these peels is at present attached to the Castle of Branzholm, celebrated as the ancient residence of the family of Buccleuch, and invested with additional interest of late, in consequence of the prominent place which it occupies in the Lay of the Last Minstrel. In the reign of James I., it became the property of Sir William Scott of Buccleuch, and for a long period after was the scene of great baronial splendour, whilst, from its situation and the feudal power of the brave barons that successively possessed it, it was frequently exposed to the most formidable assaults. It was burnt down by the Earl of Northumberland in 1532, and blown up with gunpowder during the invasion of the Earl of Surrey in 1570. It was rebuilt, however, almost immediately after, the work being commenced by Sir Walter Scott, and completed by his widow, as appears from the following inscriptions:—"Sir W. Scott of Branzheim, Knyt, Yoe of Sir William Scott of Kirkurd, Knyt, began ye work upon ye 24 of Marche 1571 zeir, quha departit at God's pleisour ye 17 April 1574."—"Dame Margaret Douglas, his Spous, completit the forsaid work in October 1576." There is likewise the following legend on a tablet over one of the doors:

"IN. VARLD. IS. NOCHT. NATUR, HES. VROUGHT. YET. SAL. LEST. AY.
THAIRFORE. SERVE. GOD. KEIP. VEIL. YE. ROD, THY. FAME. SAL. NOCHT. DEKAY.
SHIR VALTER SCOT OF BRANXHOLME, KNYGHT. MARGARET DOUGLAS.
1571."

Besides these towers, which have lost somewhat of their original appearance by being subjected to frequent alterations and repairs, there is another still standing on the brow of a hill at Goldielands, about two miles distant from the town, which retains very much of its primitive character, and is probably as perfect as any on the border. It is said to have been the residence, in former times, of a family of the name of Goldie, whence it seems to have derived its present appellation. It is of a square form, and from its massive and venerable appearance, aided by the elevated situation on which it stands, forms an object in the landscape as picturesque as it is conspicuous.

A bridge leading from the High Street to the parish church is also deserving of notice as an object of antiquity. Different in its
ROXBURGH.

structure from any other erection of a like nature in the district, it is supposed to have been built at a very remote period, though by whom, or at what time, is matter of mere conjecture. Though formed of hewn stone, and of considerable strength, it does not seem to have been intended for carriages constructed like those of the present day, and is, indeed, so narrow as to be used only by foot-passengers. But the peculiarity by which it is chiefly distinguished is in the formation of the main arch, which, when viewed from the channel of the river, appears ornamented underneath with a series of narrow abutments, rising from either side of the water-course, and meeting in a semicircular form above, thus presenting, though in a rude form, an approximation to the species of architecture which adorns the porticoes of many of the ancient cathedrals.

A hand-bell, belonging to the magistrates of the town, may next be referred to as interesting, alike from its antiquity, and from the singular purpose for which it was used. On the occasion of every death, it was customary at no very remote period, for one of the burgh officers to proceed through the different districts of the town, when lifting his hat, and ringing the bell at regular intervals, he made the following announcement to the inhabitants, with an air of great solemnity:—"I hereby take ye to wit, that — our brother (or sister) departed this life at — of the clock, according to the pleasure of our Lord." This intimation being made, accompanied with a general invitation to the funeral, the bell was then taken to the house of mourning, and placed, in a spirit of the grossest superstition, on the bed where the dead body was lying, and in a position from which it was reckoned altogether sacrilegious to remove it till the time appointed for the interment. On the upper part of the bell there is legibly inscribed in relief *HAWICK*, with the letters *R. S. I. D.* which are understood to be the initials of the then existing magistrates, and on the under part, and in what is said to be a corrupt dialect of the Dutch language, *IAN. BVRGV. HVIS HEFT. MY. GEGOTE. ANNO 1601*, signifying John Burgub did make (literally beget) me in the year 1601. Both the inscriptions are terminated with the likeness of an antique head.

An antique jug, of bronze material, having three feet, a handle and spout, and probably used as a sacrificial vessel by the Romans, was dug up a few years ago at Reasknow, and is at present in possession of James Grieve, Esq., Branhholm Braes. The same gentleman has two ancient coins, which, with many others, were discovered in a piece of moss ground at Hislop. One of these is

a silver penny of Alexander III., on the obverse side of which is a profile of the King, wearing an open crown of three fleurs-de-lys, holding a sceptre, and surrounded with the legend "Alexander Dei Gra," whilst on the reverse side is a broad cross extending to the edge of the coin, each quarter of the cross containing a pierced star, circumscribed with the words "Scotorum Rex." It is remarkable that this coin, though found in an exposed situation, and struck nearly 600 years ago, is still in the highest state of preservation.

There was likewise found on the borders of the parish a fibula, made apparently either of jet or cannel coal, and bearing a fine polish. It is conjectured that this material was used by the aborigines of the country in the manufacture of various articles previous to the introduction of metals, and probably about the same period when it was customary to make use of stone for the construction of axes, hammers, arrow-heads, and articles of a similar description.

It may also be added, that a cairn which had long stood on the "auld caknow," about two miles distant from the town, was removed about thirty years ago. At the depth of six or eight feet from the surface of the ground, there were several large stones set on edge, somewhat in the form of a rude coffin, and enclosing a human skull, with several bones of a more than ordinary size. It being well known that the Celtic tribes were in the practice of adopting this mode of sepulture, at least with persons of note, it is highly probable that these were the remains of one of their distinguished chiefs. Sepulchral urns have likewise been dug up in the upper district of the parish, which, though considered to be Roman, are more likely, from their rude construction, to be the relics of a more barbarous and less enlightened people.

III.—POPULATION.

The following tables exhibit the state of population in this parish at present and in former times.

No. I.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------|
| In 1755 the population was 2713 | | |
| 1791, | . | 2928 |
| 1801, | . | 2798 |
| 1811, | . | 3688 |
| 1821, | . | 4367 |
| 1831, | . | 4970 |
| 1836, | . | 5366 |
| 1838, | . | 5998 |

No. II.

| Years. | In Town. | In Country. | Total. |
|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| 1791, | 2320 | 608 | 2928 |
| 1821, | 3684 | 703 | 4387 |
| 1836, | 4744 | 622 | 5366 |
| 1838, | 5306 | 692 | 5998 |

No. III.

| Years. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1791, | 1378 | 1550 | 2928 |
| 1801, | 1309 | 1489 | 2798 |
| 1811, | 1705 | 1963 | 3668 |
| 1821, | 2153 | 2234 | 4387 |
| 1831, | 2405 | 2565 | 4970 |
| 1836, | 2626 | 2738 | 5366 |
| 1838, | 2959 | 3039 | 5998 |

No. IV.

| Years. | Under 10. | 10—20. | 20—50. | 50—70 | 70—100. |
|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1791, | 600 | 618 | 1214 | 423 | 73 |
| 1821, | 1228 | 849 | 1687 | 528 | 95 |
| 1836, | 1511 | 1043 | 2078 | 621 | 113 |

The following tables contain the number of births, marriages, and deaths, as recorded in the parochial registers. With regard to marriages and deaths, the register may be regarded as comprehending the entire number for the years specified; but with reference to births, it is necessary to state, that the register is to a certain extent defective, inasmuch as it contains, with but few exceptions, the names of those only who are baptised in the Established Church.

No. I.

| Years. | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1791, | 30 | 17 | 71 |
| 1834, | 54 | 33 | 84 |
| 1835, | 51 | 28 | 122 |
| 1836, | 45 | 38 | 142 |

No. II.

Average for 1834, 1835, and 1836.

| Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|---------|------------|---------|
| 50 | 33 | 116 |

No. III.

| Years. | Number of Deaths. | | | Died between the ages of | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | 0—5. | 5—15. | 15—30. | 30—60. | 60—100. |
| 1833, | 45 | 58 | 103 | 47 | 9 | 6 | 19 | 22 |
| 1834, | 36 | 48 | 84 | 24 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 23 |
| 1837, | 78 | 118 | 191 | 95 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 43 |
| 1838, | 63 | 94 | 157 | 63 | 7 | 17 | 38 | 32 |

There are six proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

It appears from the foregoing tables that the gross population has been considerably more than doubled since the beginning of

this century, or during the space of thirty-eight years; and as this remarkable increase has taken place chiefly in the town, the population of the landward part of the parish having remained almost stationary since the period of the first census, it may be regarded as a strong evidence of the flourishing state of the woollen manufactures, to whose influence, in creating a demand for labour and attracting operatives from other places, the increase in the population is mainly to be ascribed.

Habits and Customs.—Of the customs prevalent in this parish, there is none certainly that is less deserving of notice, though none that is more characteristic, than that of distinguishing individuals by other than the names that properly belong to them. This custom was at one time common to the whole district, and was no doubt adopted in ancient times for the purpose of drawing a broader line of distinction between individuals, who, belonging to the same clan, and bearing the same name, were not unlikely, but for a device such as this, to be frequently confounded with one another. And it is somewhat remarkable, that such fictitious designations have remained often in the same family, and been handed down from father to son in regular succession, through the course of many generations. Indeed there are some of the older inhabitants of this parish, who in the ordinary intercourse of life have been so long accustomed to the conventional usages of the place, that their proper names are but seldom used, and by many of their neighbours are altogether unknown. And even in the register of deaths, where it might have been supposed that the evidences of such a strange custom were least likely to be traced, there is actually a faithful record of the sobriquets by which the ancestors of the present generation were commonly distinguished, a record which, however it may be viewed in other respects, does evidently prove how completely the practice in question has been interwoven with the habits of the people.

It deserves also to be mentioned, though not peculiar to this parish, that, during the course of last century, it was the custom to employ only one coffin at the interment of paupers. This, as appears from the statements of some of the older inhabitants, was used merely for the purpose of conveying them to their final resting-place, and was so constructed as to be capable of opening by a hinge underneath, by which means the body was permitted to escape when lowered down into the grave. It is not to be denied that there is something in this mode of interment very much at

variance with the refinement of modern times. Yet we suspect that the practice, revolting as it now appears, was considered at the time of its introduction as an improvement upon the usages of a former age. For we find, that, in the General Assembly held at Edinburgh in December 1563, it was specially ordained:—
 “ That a bier should be made in every countrie parish to carrie the dead corpse of the poor to the burial-place, and that those of the villages or houses next adjacent to the house where the dead corpse lyeth, or a certain number out of every house, shall convoy the dead corpse to the burial-place, and burie it six footes under the earth, and that every superintendent request the Lords and Barons within his bounds to make an act in their courts touching this order, and to cause their officers warn the nearest neighbours where the dead corpse lyeth, to convoy it to the grave.”

Another practice has long prevailed in this parish, and is still occasionally observed. When any member of a family is considered to be dying, the apartment is not only frequented, as in other places, with relatives and neighbours, but in many cases the whole company unite in an act of religious worship, selecting for this purpose one of the psalms most suited to the occasion, such, for example, as the xxiii. the xliii. or the cxviii., and singing it together with a low and solemn melody, while the soul of the dying person is passing into the world of spirits, and not only so, but when the mortal struggle appears to be over, it is succeeded by a song of triumph and of praise, consisting not unfrequently of the following verses from the cvii. Psalm:—

The storm is chang'd into a calm
 At his command and will;
 So that the waves which rag'd before,
 Now quiet are and still.

Then are they glad, because at rest
 And quiet now they be:
 So to the haven he them brings
 Which they desir'd to see.

O that men to the Lord would give
 Praise for his goodness then,
 And for his works of wonder done
 Unto the sons of men!

That this practice has not originated from any species of superstitious feeling we are not prepared to affirm; nor are we sure that the results expected to arise from it are always such as are warranted by the spirit of genuine and undefiled religion. At the same time, it must be admitted, that there is something in the ser-

vice itself which is peculiarly impressive and solemnizing, and we doubt not, that when observed, as it is in many instances, with a devout and becoming spirit, it is productive of impressions very much suited to the solemnity of the occasion.

The practice of riding the marches is still observed in this parish. This ancient ceremonial takes place on the last Friday of May, old style, which is considered by more than the youthful portion of the population as one of the most important days of the year. The honour of carrying the standard of the town, the original of which is said to have been taken from the English shortly after the Battle of Flodden, devolves upon the cornet, a young man previously elected for the purpose, and he, with the magistrates of the town on horseback and a large body of the inhabitants and burgesses, set out in regular procession, for the ostensible purpose of riding round the property of the town, and making formal demonstration of their legal rights,—a ceremonial, which, however necessary in ancient times, when written documents were in constant danger of being destroyed, may now be considered as a useless form, but which, notwithstanding, is kept up with much spirit by the great body of the people, as well from the influence of ancient associations, as from the holiday amusements with which it is invariably attended.*

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The following table exhibits the number of families, and their respective employments, at different periods :

* The following are a few stanzas from an ancient song, which seems to embody the spirit of the inhabitants on these occasions, and which is sung by the cornet and his attendants from the roof of an old tenement belonging to the town, and loudly and enthusiastically joined in by the surrounding multitude :

“ We'll a' hie to the muir a-riding,
Drumlanrig gave it for providing
Our ancestors of martial order,
To drive the English off our border.

At Flodden-field our fathers fought it,
And honour gained, though dear they bought it ;
By Teviot side they took this colour,
A dear memorial of their valour.

Though twice of old our town was burned,
Yet twice the foemen back we turned,
And ever should our rights be trod on,
We'll face the foe to Tirioden.

Up wi' Hawick, its rights and common,
Up wi' a' the Border bowmen !
Tiribus and Tirioden,

● We are up to guard the common.”

| Years. | Families employed in agriculture. | Families employed in trade. | All other families. | Total number of families. |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1811 | 256 | 442 | 189 | 887 |
| 1821 | 189 | 536 | 192 | 917 |
| 1831 | 188 | 556 | 108 | 852 |
| 1836 | 175 | 708 | 243 | 1126 |
| 1838 | 194 | 799 | 261 | 1254 |

According to the last Government census there were 1190 males upwards of twenty years of age; 28 occupiers employing labourers; 32 occupiers not employing labourers; 136 labourers employed in agriculture; 420 employed in manufactures; 419 employed in retail trade, or in handicraft, as masters or workmen; 55 bankers, wholesale merchants, capitalists, professional persons, and other educated men; 70 labourers, not agricultural; 27 other males upwards of twenty years of age, not including servants; 3 male servants, upwards of twenty years of age; 5 male servants under twenty years of age; and 140 female servants.

Agriculture.—Great progress has been made of late years in the department of agriculture, and this probably will appear sufficiently obvious by the statement of a few facts: 1. A considerable extent of waste land belonging to the town of Hawick has either been planted or brought into cultivation, while, on many of the farms, similar improvements have been effected, though on a smaller scale, with respect to land formerly in pasture. 2. Drains to a great extent have been made in the sheep pastures, and numerous stells have been erected for the shelter of the stock. 3. Much attention has been paid to the improvement of the breeds of cattle and of sheep, and lately with great success, the cattle at the Hawick market being now considered equal to those shown at any other market for the same kind of stock in the county. 4. The Scotch plough is entirely laid aside, while the most approved implements of modern invention are now in general use. 5. The number of carts brought into the town on any ordinary market-day amounts generally to about 170, although it is within recollection of some of the oldest inhabitants, when there was only one cart, the property of the minister, in the whole parish.

The subjoined tables have reference to the state of agriculture in the parish at present. To Mr Elliot of Goldielands we are mainly indebted for the particulars they contain.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of imperial acres in pasture, | 11100 |
| in tillage, | 4100 |
| under wood, | 160 |

Total number, 15360

Average Rents.—Arable land per acre, 16s. ; grazing per ox or cow, L. 2, 10s. ; pasturing per sheep, 5s.

Wages.—Ploughmen, L. 12 per annum, besides victuals and lodging ; shepherds, paid in kind, and estimated at L. 40 yearly ; labourers, on an average, 10s. per week ; female servants, L. 7 yearly ; carpenters, about 15s. per week ; masons, from 16s. to 18s. per week ; smiths, on an average, 14s. per week.

An iron plough costs L. 3, 10s. ; a turnip-drill, L. 6 ; a cart, L. 10 ; a thrashing-machine, L. 140 ; fanners, L. 7, 10s. ; a stone roller, L. 3.

Produce.—Estimate of the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained :

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|
| Grain of all kinds, . . . | L. 10000 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes, turnips, . . . | 4000 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, . . . | 800 | 0 | 0 |
| Land in pasture, . . . | 4000 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous produce, . . . | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce, . . . | L. 19800 | 0 | 0 |

Farmer's Club.—A farmer's club was established in this town in 1776, which has contributed in no small degree to the furtherance of the agricultural interests of the district. The following extract, from a very interesting report drawn up by the secretary, James Grieve, Esq. Branzholm Braes, will serve at once to explain the object of its institution, and to point out the benefits which have resulted from its proceedings :—

“ The object of the institution is the improvement of farming, and in furtherance of this object the members have given a variety of premiums, recommended the institution and regulation of markets, and have been in the habit of discussing questions connected with agriculture, stock-farming, and rural polity in general.

The club meets on the first Thursday of every month, when the members dine together, the chair being taken by each member in rotation. A subject has been generally given out one club-day for discussion on the next, and some very interesting questions appear in the records of the society.

Previous to 1778, it would appear that there was no regular corn-market in Hawick, for in November that year, the club issued an advertisement of the following tenor :—“ Several farmers in the neighbourhood of Hawick, being desirous of establishing the practice of bringing samples of corn to market, have agreed, that henceforth they will appear at the cross of Hawick, betwixt the hours of twelve and one every market-day, upon the ringing of a bell

for that purpose, with their samples, and hope that millers and others who want corn, will make use of that opportunity of purchasing."

The fair at Rink originated with the club, who proposed the establishment of it to the proprietor of the ground, Mr Ruthersford of Edgerstone; and in consequence of every encouragement being held out by him, the first fair was held on 15th October 1779, when there were 2540 sheep exposed to sale. This establishment has been of very great use, and, till lately, continued to be the most extensive fair for draft ewes and widders in the south of Scotland. A market for hiring hinds and herds was also formed at Hawick on the third Thursday of April 1780, which is now generally held on the first, second, and third Thursdays of that month. In 1785, the club proposed to the magistrates and town-council of Hawick, the establishment of a cattle tryst in the month of October. This also continues to be held annually, but has not been quite so successful as was expected.

Ploughing matches were held for some years, and premiums given to the best ploughman. The first was held on the farm of Ashiebank, 15th April 1786, when ten ploughs started. On the 25th January 1787, the second premium was gained by a servant of Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, who ploughed with two oxen without a driver.

In 1803, a premium of L. 5 was given for the best bull, and L. 3 for the best quye; next year, additional premiums of L. 3 for the second best bull, and L. 2 for the second best quye were added; and these premiums were continued until 1814, when they appear to have been superseded by the large premiums given by the Border Agricultural Society.

In 1807, the club had the merit of rousing the attention of the public to the great hardships sustained by farmers from the hypothetical mode of estimating their profits under the Property Tax Act. The club appointed a committee to collect the sense of the farmers of the county of Roxburgh on this subject, and, in consequence of their recommendation, a general meeting of the farmers of the county was held at Jedburgh, and steps taken to bring their situation under the notice of Government. Their exertions to procure a repeal or alteration in the mode of assessment were continued for several years at a considerable expense: they were latterly joined by the proprietors of land, and Government was at last induced to repeal this very unequal tax.

In 1826, a market for cattle and horses, at the recommendation of the club, was established at Hawick on the May fair-day, which promises to be of very considerable utility to the neighbourhood.

In 1826, the club appointed a committee to take into consideration the existing duty of 20s. per cwt. on all grass seeds imported into Great Britain; to draw up resolutions on the subject of petitioning for its repeal; and, besides publishing these resolutions in the newspapers, to transmit a copy of them to the Highland Society of Scotland. The subject was taken up by the Highland Society, and a good deal of correspondence took place betwixt that society and the club, on the subject of an application to Parliament for a repeal or reduction of the duty, but unfortunately a memorial to the Board of Trade was unsuccessful. In 1834, the club solicited the attention of Lord Althorpe to this duty, but still without the desired effect.

In 1826, the club paid L. 8 towards defraying the expense of a young man attending Mr Dick's Veterinary Lectures in Edinburgh, on condition of his settling as a farrier in Hawick.

Many very interesting questions have been discussed by the club; but for the first three years after its establishment, the opinions of the club were not recorded; since July 1779, the minutes have been chiefly occupied by the insertion of the questions submitted to the club, and the answers agreed to.

These, as appears from the foregoing extracts, are a few of the public matters to which the attention of this important association has been directed, and in almost every instance with complete success. But the utility of the association has not been limited to these. Advantages, of equal if not of greater importance, though not so easily embodied in the details of a report, have unquestionably arisen from the frequent and familiar intercourse of the members with one another, and we believe that the circumstance of a number of intelligent men meeting regularly together, for the purpose of imparting the results of their experience and observation in regard to matters with which professionally they are most conversant, has contributed mainly and more than any other cause to those agricultural improvements, which are manifest in every part of the district, and which, whilst they reflect credit on the parties from whom they originate, are found to bear, as well on the health as on the increased comfort and well being of the population at large.

Agricultural Society.—At the suggestion of James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers, and under the patronage of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, an Agricultural Society for the west of Teviotdale was formed here in 1835. The object of this association is, to promote the interests of agriculture in general, and more especially to give premiums for the most approved breeds of horses, cattle, and sheep. The parishes of Ancrum, Ashkirk, Bedrule, Bowden, Cavers, Hawick, Hobkirk, Kirkton, Lilliesleaf, Minto, Robertson, Southdean, and Wilton are comprehended within the sphere of its operations; and the annual general meeting takes place at Hawick on the first Thursday of August. The probable advantages of this association, it being yet in its infancy, it is scarcely possible to estimate at present. In the meantime, however, it promises well; and from the support it has already received, and the encouragement to competition and improvement it holds out, it is not unreasonable to expect that it will ultimately be of great benefit to the district.

Manufactures.—In this place, employment is afforded to a considerable number of hands, in the manufacture of thongs, gloves, candles, machinery, and in the tanning of leather and dressing of sheep skins. But the woollen manufacture is that for which the town is chiefly distinguished, and which is specially deserving of notice, as well from the extent to which it is carried on at the present time, as from the rapid progress it has been making of late years.

In attempting, however, to give an idea of this department of trade, we find it difficult to keep strictly within the parochial boundary. Some of the mills are erected on this side of the Teviot, and are comprehended within the limits of this parish, and some of them on the other, which falls within the parish of Wilton, whilst the great majority both of proprietors and operatives are resident in the town of Hawick. Instead, therefore, of detaching the one altogether from the other, for the sake of adhering to what is properly parochial, we deem it better, as they are otherwise very closely connected, to include them both in the following remarks.

The working of coarse stockings on the frame was commenced by Bailie John Hardie in 1771, and followed upon a larger scale by Mr John Nixon in 1780, but little comparatively seems to have been done anterior to the introduction of machinery for the spinning of yarn. This appears to have taken place about the beginning of this century, from which time, and without any material

fluctuation, the woollen manufacture has been progressively advancing. More especially within the last few years, large additions have been made to almost all the mills which had previously been established, several new erections also have been completed on a very large scale, and at present there are 11 extensive factories, one of which is driven by steam, and the others by water power, besides various buildings of considerable extent for the operation of stocking frames. The kind of machinery made use of in the mills, consists generally of the common engines for teasing, scribbling, carding, and spinning, together with doubling and twisting machines, which are worked by hand; and the principal articles manufactured are yarns, under clothing, flannels, plaiding, shawls, tartans, druggets, cloths of various descriptions, lamb's wool hosiery of the finest texture, and blankets, both according to the English and Scotch mode of manufacture. From returns with which we have been favoured by some of the leading manufacturers, we have constructed the following table, which may give a tolerable idea of the state of manufactures in this place for the year 1838.

| | | | |
|---|---------|----------|---------|
| Value of property employed in manufacture, L. | 101,861 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual amount of wages, | 48,726 | 0 | 0 |
| Quantity of yarn manufactured, | | 854,462 | lbs. |
| Annual consumption of wool, | | 108,162 | stones. |
| Quantity of soap consumed, | | 102,899 | lbs. |
| Number of stockings made, | | 1049,676 | pairs. |
| Articles of under clothing, | | 12,552 | |
| Number of operatives, | | 1788 | |
| Number of stocking-frames, | | 1209 | |
| Number of weaving-looms, | | 226 | |

In addition to the operatives specified in the preceding table, it may be mentioned, that a considerable number of females obtain regular employment in sewing stockings; but as these are generally engaged not by the proprietors of the factories, but by the stocking-makers, it is difficult to ascertain the exact number. It may also be noticed, that the manufacturers are in the practice of giving employment to weavers and stocking-makers in almost every parish in the district to the extent of at least twenty or thirty miles from the town. Besides, there are a good many smiths, carpenters, masons, mill-wrights, and needle-makers, who are mainly if not directly dependent on this branch of commercial enterprise, and of course its influence, both in affording the means of subsistence, and in the circulation of capital, is much more extensive than is made to appear from the foregoing details.

In closing our remarks on this subject, we cannot help remark-

ing, that it is not a little singular, that in a district such as this, these manufactures should have been carried on with such spirit, and to so great an extent. The expense of fuel, the distance of any sea-port town, and the want of railroads, canals, or navigable rivers, must have operated, it is to be supposed, very strongly against the introduction or prosperity of this branch of industry. Yet in spite of these formidable obstacles the trade has been prosecuted with a degree of activity, enterprise, and success, which, whilst highly creditable to the manufacturers themselves, has added not a little to the value of property in the town, given a fresh stimulus to every other department of trade, and afforded, moreover, a readier market to the produce of the agricultural districts.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Hawick is a market-town, and also a burgh of barony and regality. The public functionaries consist of two bailies elected annually by the burgesses, fourteen deacons or representatives of the incorporated trades, and fifteen councillors who hold office for life. The senior magistrate is a justice of peace *ex officio*. The landed property of the burgh amounts to 1090 acres, and the gross revenue to upwards of L. 470 per annum. In the town there are two printing-presses, three public reading-rooms, and three banks. The subscription rooms used occasionally for public meetings, the town-hall, the parish church, and four Dissenting chapels, are the principal public buildings. The general appearance of the town has been very much altered of late years. New streets have been built in all directions for the accommodation of the increasing population, whilst many of the older tenements with their thatched roofs have been entirely removed to make way for buildings more accordant with the taste of modern times. By means of these alterations the dwelling-houses in general have not only been rendered better in point of comfort and accommodation, but the shops also, both as respects their appearance and the quality of the various commodities they supply, have undergone the most obvious and important improvements. The town is well supplied with water, and is lighted with gas, whilst the inhabitants are almost entirely free from the burden of local taxation.

Post-office.—It appears from Wilson's History that, "previous to the establishment of the post-office in Hawick about seventy or eighty years ago, the letters, which were brought from Jedburgh by a common hawker, once a month, were exposed on a stall in

the street on the market day like so many cakes of ginger-bread, and that the people used to look at them with as much curiosity as the botanists of the present day would do at a few exotic plants from Van Dieman's Land." In contrast with this statement, and as showing the advance that has taken place in the commercial prosperity of the town, we deem it of importance to mention, that during the course of 1838, there were transmitted through the post-office 31,148 letters, and 9932 newspapers, whilst the revenue amounted to about L. 1000.

Roads.—The length of the turnpike roads in the parish extends to about eight and a-half, and that of the statute labour to about twenty-five miles. The condition of both has been very much amended of late years, but the improvement is more observable in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Towards the eastern extremity, an elegant and substantial bridge has been erected over the Teviot, from which the line of communication is carried by an easy access into the main street, instead of passing, as formerly through the village of Wilton, where the road, being both steep and narrow, was found to be exceedingly dangerous; and an improvement of at least equal importance has been effected by a total alteration of the road leading into the town from the west, by which means a very considerable acclivity is avoided, and a beautiful approach of ample width and almost level is opened up along the valley of the Teviot. The entrance to the town, both from the east and west, is likewise considerably improved by passing through a fine range of nursery grounds.

Means of Communication.—Besides carriers to various places, four mails pass through the town daily, two of them from Edinburgh, and two from London, by way of Carlisle. There is likewise a coach from this to Edinburgh three times a-week, and another to Jedburgh and Kelso every Tuesday and Friday.

Bridges.—There are eight stone bridges, most of which are modern erections, three over the Slitridge, and five over the Teviot. They are upon the whole in good repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, as appears from the ancient chronicle of Melrose, was dedicated to St Mary, in 1214, and in the Roll of Bagimont, an ecclesiastic, who was commissioned by the Pope, in 1275, to collect the tithes of all the benefices in Scotland for the relief of the Christians in the Holy Land, the rectoria de Havick is valued at L.16. It is alleged by Chalmers in his Caledonia, though upon what authority he does not state,

that this church, instead of being used only for spiritual purposes, was employed as a court house long after the Scots canons had prohibited such an abuse; and in proof of this assertion, he mentions, that it was here, in 1342, that the celebrated Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie was exercising his judicial functions as Sheriff of Teviotdale, when he was rudely assaulted by Sir William Douglas of Liddesdale, and carried off to Hermitage Castle, in one of whose solitary dungeons he was left to perish of hunger. Nor was this sacred edifice profaned by acts of violence merely, whilst prostituted to other purposes than the celebration of religious worship. It seems also in ancient times to have been made the scene of the grossest superstition. For we find from the charter granted to the town by Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, that several particates of land were not only allocated to the chaplain of Hawick, but that special provision was made "for finding and furnishing one lamp or pot of burning oil before the altar of the blessed Virgin Mary, within the parish church, at the time of the great mass and the vesper or evening prayers, all the holidays of the year, in honour of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and praying for the souls of the Barons of Hawick, founders of the foresaid lamp, and their successors."

The present church, which is situated about fourteen miles from the western and one and a-half from the eastern boundary of the parish, was built in 1764, and has neither been enlarged nor materially altered since that time. Though devoid of every architectural embellishment, it has the advantage of a good site, being built on a circular rising ground in the centre of the town, and, though somewhat difficult of access, is, in point of locality, conveniently situated for the great mass of the population. It so happens, however, that the accommodation is not only exceedingly inadequate, inasmuch as there are sittings only for 704, whilst the population of the parish amounts to 5998, but the great body of the people who are resident in the town, and who amount to 5306, have, strictly speaking, no legal right to any part of the accommodation it affords. Two-thirds of the entire area were originally allocated to the heritors and tenants in the landward part of the parish, whilst the other third, affording accommodation to about 234, is all that is reserved for the town, and not only so, but even this part of the church, limited as it is, is accessible to those only who are either proprietors, or are capable of paying a considerable seat-rent. There are, moreover, no sittings set apart for the poor

with the exception of benches inconveniently placed in the passages, and these, capable of accommodating about 33, with all the other sittings, whether let or allocated, are not only fully occupied, but the stairs to the pulpit and to both the galleries are generally crowded.

Various attempts have been made for the purpose of removing the evils under which the parish has been suffering from such a sad deficiency in the means and opportunities of religious worship. So far back as 1802, the subject was strongly pressed on the attention of the heritors, by a petition from the magistrates, town-council, and kirk-session, and, after various meetings and deliberations, they have at length agreed as to the necessity of having a new church capable of accommodating 1500, and have recorded their opinion to that effect. There seems, however, to be no immediate prospect of this plan being carried into execution, as several formidable obstacles remain yet to be removed.

1. The present church is not legally condemned, and, from the opinion of competent judges who have carefully examined it, is still in a sound and sufficient state, though uncomfortable in the extreme, and in every point of view unfit for a place of religious worship.

2. A large majority of the heritors, in accordance with the feelings of the great body of the people, have resolved on the erection of the new church on the site of the present building. This, however, cannot be effected, so as to accommodate the requisite number, without encroaching considerably on the adjoining burying-grounds, which is decidedly objected to by one or two individuals, whose opposition is strengthened by the fact, that the church is not legally condemned.

3. The difficulties have been somewhat increased by certain parties claiming right to act as heritors, on the ground of their being assessed for the poor, although they are not rated in the county cess-books, and have never paid any portion of assessment for parochial buildings.

It ought not to be omitted, that His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, influenced by a laudable regard for the best interests of the people, has resolved, in the meantime, to build an additional church at his own expense—a measure which, while urgently required, is likely, when carried into effect, to prove of great benefit to the community.

Illustrative of the ecclesiastical state of the parish we subjoin the following details :

Relative numbers of Churchmen and Dissenters in 1836 :—Churchmen, 3902 ; Dissenters, 1464 ; total, 5366.

Seat-holders in 1836 :—Churchmen, 704 ; Dissenters, 685 ; total, 1389.

Without sittings in any place of worship in 1836 :—Families, 388 ; individuals, 1294.

In communion with the Established Church :—Male heads of families in 1834, 289 ; in 1836, 323. Total communicants in 1834, 729 ; in 1836, 907.

Collections in the parish church, 1831–1835 :—Ordinary, L. 199, 10s. 0½d. ; extraordinary, L. 89, 3s. 2½d. ; total, L. 288, 13s. 3½d.

Sittings in the parish church.

| Let. | Number of sittings. | | Number of unlet sittings. | | |
|------|---------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| | Unlet. | Total. | Allocated to heritors or persons having right. | Set apart for the poor. | Free, or usually unoccupied, or set apart for letting but not let. |
| 378 | 326 | 704 | 293 | 33 | 0 |

Rates at which sittings are let in the parish church.

| Years. | At 1s. | From 1s. to 2s. | From 2s. to 3s. | From 3s. to 5s. | From 5s. to 7s. | From 7s. to 10s. |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1831, | 28 | 101 | 69 | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| 1832, | 28 | 106 | 66 | 178 | 0 | 0 |
| 1833, | 32 | 82 | 38 | 220 | 6 | 0 |
| 1834, | 28 | 76 | 72 | 202 | 0 | 0 |
| 1835, | 28 | 72 | 22 | 200 | 40 | 16 |

Revenue of sittings in the parish church :—1831, L. 50, 3s. 5d. ; 1832, L. 51, 8s. 10d. ; 1833, L. 54, 13s. 4d. ; 1834, L. 54, 9s. 4d. ; 1835, L. 67, 3s. 4d.

The manse was built about 1765, and since then has undergone frequent repairs. Some important alterations were made upon it in 1824, and recently it has been both repaired and enlarged. The heritors have acceded with the utmost readiness to every proposal that has been made for its improvement.

The glebe is situated in the immediate vicinity of the town, and contains about 16 acres of arable land. It is let at present at the annual rent of L. 62.

The stipend amounts to 15 chalders, half meal, half barley, with L. 65, 12s. 7½d. Sterling.

The following have been ministers of this parish at different periods :—Richard de Wyton, 1296 ; Alexander Murray, 1478 ; Gavin Douglas, 1496 ; John Scott, 1537 ; William Fowler, 1587 ;

Robert Cunnyngname, 1624; John Scott, 1659; Alexander Kinneir, 1664; John Langlands, 1669; Alexander Orrock, 1689; Robert Cunningham, 1712; Charles Telfer, 1724; William Sommerville, 1732; James Lawrie, 1757; Thomas Sharp, 1784; Robert Gillan, 1790; James Arkle, 1800; John Cochrane, 1823; J. A. Wallace, 1833.

Scripture Reader.—The office of Scripture reader has been kept up in this parish from time immemorial, though unattended with the abuses which fell under the cognizance and condemnation of the General Assembly about the middle of the sixteenth century. The office is generally conferred on the parish schoolmaster, who receives a small salary from the funds of the kirk-session; and the duty consists simply in reading portions of the sacred Scriptures in the parish church on the Lord's-day, before the commencement of the morning service, and during the interval of public worship.

Caerlanrig Chapel.—Connected with the Establishment there is no other place of worship in this parish. There is, however, a small chapel at the distance of about nine miles from the town, which, though situated in the parish of Cavers, is accessible to such of the population as are beyond reach of the parish church. This chapel or preaching station was built for the accommodation of a district, partly belonging to the parish of Hawick, and partly to the parish of Cavers. It was seated by subscription, and is capable of containing about 200. None of the seats are let: the subscribers have the right of occupation. The chapel has no constitution, and the preacher who officiates there regularly is not ordained. The ministers of Hawick and Cavers dispense the sacrament of the Lord's supper alternately, and celebrate marriages and baptisms in the district as often as required. A manse was built recently at the expense chiefly of the Duke of Buccleuch, but the stipend, which is strictly of a voluntary description, is very inadequate.

Dissenting Chapels.—Besides a chapel belonging to the Society of Friends, but frequented only by two families from this parish, and a small congregation of Independents, whose members amount to 18, and whose ordinary place of meeting is a school-room, there are two places of worship in connection with the United Associate Synod, and a Relief meeting-house. With regard to the three last, we have extracted the following details from the Report of the Royal Commissioners lately appointed to inquire into the means and opportunities of religious worship in Scotland. It is

necessary, however, to observe, that the numbers stated in the table below, both as communicants and as ordinary hearers, comprehend not only parishioners, but a considerable proportion gathered from other parishes. The statistics have reference to the year 1835.

| Dissenting Chapels. | 1st Secess. Congregat. | 2d Secess. Congregat. | Relief. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| When established, . | 1763 | 1780 | 1810 |
| Average attendance, . | 490 | 750 | 600 |
| Communicants, . | 400 | 705 | 393 |
| Number of sittings, . | 659 | 752 | 750 |
| Let sittings, . | 306 | 650 | 401 |
| Highest rate of sittings, . | L. 0 8 0 | L. 0 9 0 | L. 0 7 0 |
| Lowest rate of sittings, . | 0 4 0 | 0 3 8 | 0 2 0 |
| Revenue of sittings, . | 99 1 0 | 149 7 3 | 100 16 3 |
| Ordinary collections, . | 28 11 5½ | 55 19 9½ | 43 2 4 |
| Amount of debt, . | 409 0 0 | 380 0 0 | 590 0 0 |
| Amount of stipend, . | 108 0 0 | 185 0 0 | 85 0 0 |

The ministers of the first and second United Secession congregations have dwelling-houses.

Education.—In 1711, the sum of 9000 merks Scots was left by the Rev. Alexander Orrock, minister of this parish, under provision of its remaining as a perpetual mortified fund, and the interest given yearly to the schoolmaster of Hawick, on condition of his teaching such poor children gratis as might be found by the minister and heritors to have a genius for learning. Accordingly, the benefit of this mortification was originally enjoyed along with the parochial salary by the teacher of the parish school. At a subsequent period, however, the parochial salary was given to one teacher, and the interest of Orrock's mortification to another, and the two schools remained separate for a period of about fifty years. In 1824, it was deemed expedient to revert to the original arrangement, and accordingly it was proposed and agreed to:

1. That the schools be united under one rector, having right both to Orrock's mortification, and to the parochial salary.

2. That the rector be obliged at all times to keep an able assistant qualified to teach writing, arithmetic, and mathematics.

3. That the assistant be appointed by, and removable at, the pleasure of the rector.

4. That the entire salary, together with school-fees and other emoluments, be divided between the rector and assistant, in the proportion of three-fifths to the former and two-fifths to the latter, and that all necessary expenses connected with the establishment be defrayed in the same proportions. On this footing these schools now stand.

The parochial salary amounts to L. 33, the interest of Orrock's

mortification to L. 19, 1s. 11d., and the school-fees on an average are estimated at L. 90. L. 17 are also allowed in lieu of a dwelling-house. The branches of instruction taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, mathematics, Latin, Greek, and French; and the fees for reading are, 2s. 6d. a quarter, with writing, 3s.; arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; French and mathematics, 5s. 6d.; Latin and Greek, 10s. 6d. The nomination to the united school is vested in the Duke of Buccleuch.

In 1804, the heritors endowed an additional school in the village of Newmill, in the landward part of the parish. The salary amounts to L. 12, and the school-fees on an average are estimated at L. 18.

Besides these there are 10 schools carried on by teachers on their own adventure. Six of the teachers are females, and in most of these schools the elementary branches of education are taught, and at much the same rate as in the parish school. A subscription school was also established a few years ago, which is gradually progressing.

There are likewise 24 Sabbath schools on the local system, and in connexion with the Establishment, besides 4 under the superintendence of the Dissenters.

The following table gives the average numbers attending the week-day schools in 1835. It ought, however, to be noticed, that the numbers that attended more or less through the course of the year were considerably greater than those stated in the table, it being found, for example, from the lists of one of the schools which were kept with great accuracy, that the gross number of children that attended during any part of the year amounted to 191, whilst the number in attendance at one and the same time was never more than 85.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| United School, | . 85 boys. | . 65 girls. | . 150 in all. |
| Newmill School, | . 40 | . 25 | . 65 |
| Private Schools, | . 302 | . 285 | . 587 |
| Gross numbers. | <u>427</u> | <u>375</u> | <u>802</u> |

The numbers learning different branches in 1838 were as follows: reading, 720; writing, 263; arithmetic, 186; English grammar, 74; geography, 78; mathematics, 16; modern languages, 15; Latin or Greek, 14.

Individuals brought up in other parishes are occasionally met with, whose education in early life appears to have been totally neglected. It is not, however, known that there are any of the na-

tive population above fifteen years of age who cannot read. Yet, though the people generally are alive to the benefits of education, it is nevertheless to be regretted, that the attendance of not a few of the children at school is neither so regular, nor so long continued as is necessary to a thorough instruction, even in the ordinary branches of education.

Libraries.—Hawick is well supplied with libraries. The oldest and most extensive is the Public Library, which was established in 1762. The proprietors or shareholders, whose annual subscription is 10s. each, amounted, in 1838, to 56; and others who are not shareholders upon being recommended by a proprietor, and paying 15s. yearly, are entitled to receive books. This library contains about 3500 volumes, with the leading periodicals of the present day.

The Trades' Library was instituted in 1802, and contains about 1200 volumes, including an excellent selection of the most approved works in English literature. The yearly payment is 4s. Till 1830 the average number of subscribers did not exceed 40. They now amount to 135. The Juvenile Library, under the charge of the minister of the parish, contains upwards of 300 volumes chiefly of a religious description. This library was originally instituted for the children attending the Sabbath schools, but the books are lent out at present to any parishioner on the payment of 2d. monthly.

There are likewise libraries of a similar description, for the landward part of the parish, both at Teviothead, and at the village of Newmill.

School of Arts.—A School of Arts was established in 1824, under the auspices of James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers. Since its formation several courses of lectures have been delivered.

Clothing Society.—A society was instituted in 1821 for distributing articles of clothing to indigent females. It is judiciously managed by a committee of ladies. The yearly expenditure amounts to about L. 20.

Friendly Societies.—There were lately two Friendly Societies in the town, which were of much benefit in promoting industrious habits, and exciting a desire of independence. The one was established in 1779, and the other in 1802, but being founded, like many others, on defective principles, both of them have been dissolved. Their places, however, have been so far supplied by various associations, though on a smaller scale, among the operatives

of the different manufactories.—A Temperance Society, a Medico-Relief Society, an Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts, and a Home Missionary Society, have also been productive of good results.

Savings Bank.—A Savings Bank was established in 1815, which has been productive of the best results, and which is still going on prosperously. During the two years ended May 1815 and 1816, the sum deposited was L. 1750, 9s. 8d., whilst the amount withdrawn was no more than L. 21. During the years ended May 1837 and 1838, the receipts amounted to L. 3066, 13s. 2½d., and the disbursements to L. 2739, 10s. 1½d. At last balance, May 1838, the gross amount invested was L. 6857, 19s. 8d., and the total number of accounts open with depositors 483.

Pauperism.—About the beginning of last century the poor of this parish seem to have been supported entirely from church collections and other funds in the hands of the kirk-session, and the expenditure at that time was somewhat below L. 20 per annum. Between 1730 and 1740, recourse appears to have been had to an assessment more apparently of a voluntary than compulsory description, it being stipulated that the landward heritors and their tenants should pay one-half, the town one-fourth, and the kirk-session the other fourth. In 1772, the assessment amounted to L. 224, 14s. 3d.; but the funds of the kirk-session being found insufficient to meet the proportion that fell to their share, it was agreed from that time forward that L. 5 should be paid by them quarterly, whilst of the remainder that was necessary two-thirds were to be exacted from the heritors, and the other third from the town. This arrangement seems to have been carried into effect until 1811, since which time the collections and other sessional funds have, for the supply of occasional cases, been left entirely at the disposal of the kirk-session, whilst the main burden of providing for the poor has been divided between the landward heritors and the proprietors of heritable property in the town, the former being assessed according to their valued rent, of which the gross amount is L. 11591, 11s. Scots money, and the latter according to the rental of their premises, which amounted, as appears from a valuation taken in 1838, to L. 7650, 12s. Sterling. This system is in operation at the present time. The heritors meet once a quarter for the purpose of imposing the assessment, fixing the rate of allowance, and appointing a committee of their

own number to watch over the interests of the poor in the intervals between the general meetings.

The following tables exhibit the state of pauperism in this parish at the present time.

No. I. Average number of paupers.

| Years. | Permanent Roll. | Lunatics. | Occasional. | Total. |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| 1835, | 164 | 1 | 390 | 555 |
| 1836, | 153 | 1 | 460 | 614 |
| 1837, | 147 | 1 | 524 | 672 |

No. II. Amount raised for the poor.

| Years. | Assessment. | Church Collections. | Other sessional Funds. | Voluntary Contributions | Total. |
|--------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1835, | L.910 0 0 | L.50 15 8½ | L.20 7 7 | L.46 19 5 | L.1028 2 8½ |
| 1836, | 820 0 0 | 50 5 11 | 23 18 5½ | 0 0 0 | 894 4 4½ |
| 1837, | 1009 11 1½ | 95 5 8½ | 21 17 11½ | 48 3 0 | 1174 17 9½ |

No. III. Actual expenditure.

| Yrs. | Permanent roll. | Lunatics. | Occasional. | Education. | Clerk's salary. | Total. |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | L. s. d. | L. s. d. | L. s. d. | L. s. d. | L. s. d. | L. s. d. |
| 1835, | 716 3 10 | 12 7 0 | 169 11 5½ | 10 0 10 | 28 0 0 | 936 3 1½ |
| 1836, | 671 4 6 | 12 7 0 | 173 7 3½ | 10 0 10 | 28 0 0 | 894 19 7½ |
| 1837, | 703 1 8 | 12 7 0 | 256 0 3 | 10 0 10 | 28 0 0 | 1009 9 9 |

The highest rate allowed to paupers on the permanent roll is L. 11, 14s. per annum, and the lowest L. 2, 12s.

Such is the state of pauperism in this parish at the present time. It seems, however, to have been very different in former days. We find, for example, in 1727, anterior to the imposition of the legal assessment, before any voluntary contribution was made regularly on the part of the heritors, and when the poor were supported entirely by church collections and other funds in the hands of the kirk-session, that the total expenditure, as appears from existing records, amounted only to L. 22, 13s. 10d.; whereas, in 1837, as is evident from the foregoing tables, there was actually expended no less a sum than L. 1009, 9s. 9d. Considering that the population of the parish has been considerably more than doubled during the last hundred years, it would not have been surprising if the expenditure for the poor had been increased in nearly the same proportion. But the rise from L. 22, 13s. 10d. to upwards of L. 1000 is by far too great to be satisfactorily accounted for by such a cause. And we cannot help thinking, that the increase is to be referred mainly to the influence of a compulsory assessment, which, by destroying a spirit of honourable independence, has tended to augment by a rapid process the very evils against which it professes to provide; whilst the necessity for the continued operation of such a cause, we feel inclined to ascribe in

a great measure to the fact, that the parochial system, which in other places has been found the most effectual of all checks both to pauperism and crime, has been prevented, by a deplorable deficiency of church accommodation and pastoral superintendence, from being brought into full and efficient operation in this parish.

In connexion with the same subject, we deem it of importance to record the following facts: 1. Marriages are frequently contracted by parties without making any previous provision for the maintenance of a family. 2. The practice of working only so many days in the week as is barely necessary for the earning of a livelihood is adopted by a large number of the operatives. 3. The savings bank and institutions of a like nature are supported almost exclusively by the church-going population. 4. Applications, especially in seasons of domestic affliction, are made for parochial relief, and apparently without much feeling of degradation, even by families, who, by industrious exertion and provident habits, might have raised themselves to a state of honourable independence. 5. Instances of heads of families clandestinely absconding from the parish, and leaving their wives and children totally unprovided for, are of frequent occurrence.

These facts we leave to speak for themselves, remarking only, that it is somewhat mortifying to find that such evils should exist to so great an extent in a parish where the most liberal provision has been made on the part of the heritors for the purpose of meeting the necessities of the poor, and when, moreover, it is borne in remembrance, that the assessment itself, exclusive of collections and other voluntary contributions, has amounted, since the beginning of this century, to upwards of L. 31,850, it is at least deserving of consideration, whether the adoption of a different system, and the application of a liberal expenditure to the purpose of moral and religious training, would not bear more successfully on the comfort and moral well-being of the poorer classes of the community, and peradventure relieve the heritors in a great measure from the burden of a now large and rapidly augmenting assessment.

Prison.—The Jail, which forms a part of the town-house, and consists of a very small apartment, is neither properly secured, nor capable of being used without endangering the health of its inmates. For these reasons criminals are generally conveyed to the county town, a mode of procedure which is not only attended with considerable expense, but which, when taken in connexion with a glaring deficiency of police, presents serious obstacles to

the authorities in arresting the progress of crime and enforcing the authority of the laws. The number of convictions, inclusive of cases brought not only before the magistrates and justices of peace, but before the Sheriff, and the circuit court at Jedburgh, amounted in 1838 to 58.

Spirit Licenses.—The number of spirit licenses granted to inn-keepers, grocers, and others in the parish, from Whitsunday 1838, to Whitsunday 1839, amounted to 53, and it is not to be doubted that these have exerted a prejudicial influence on the morals of the people.

Fairs.—Markets for cattle and for hiring servants are held generally on the 17th of May,—for sheep on the 20th and 21st of September,—for horses and cattle on the third Tuesday of October,—and for cattle and hiring servants on the 8th of November. These markets are in general very numerously attended.

Fuel.—Both wood and peats are occasionally used; but the principal fuel is coal, brought partly from Etal, in Northumberland, and partly from the Duke of Buccleuch's pits in the neighbourhood of Langholm. From the distance of land carriage the expense of this article is considerable, the average price being about 1s. 1d. per cwt. It is computed that 7000 cart-loads are consumed in Hawick annually, which are estimated at upwards of L. 6000.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of matters in this parish at the present time is widely different in almost every respect from what it was at the period of the former Statistical Account. In the enlargement of the town, the increase of the population, the erection of extensive factories, the construction of new roads, the revenue of the post-office, the system of husbandry, the rate of wages, and the state of the markets, we discern evidences of a change no less rapid than remarkable. And in all that relates to rural economy and commercial enterprise, we believe there are few places of equal extent that have effected more with the means placed at their disposal, or risen by their own vigorous exertions to a higher and more independent position. It were well if, in matters of greater moment, and more especially in regard to the means and opportunities of moral and religious improvement, they had enjoyed advantages as ample as their circumstances required, for in that case the virtues of the population might have kept pace with their success in the ordinary business of life. But in this respect they have laboured

under great disadvantages, and, however much to be lamented, it is nothing more than might have been expected, if, in these circumstances, there has been a more than ordinary increase of pauperism, insubordination, and crime.

May 1839.

PARISH OF EDNAM.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JOSEPH THOMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, and Extent.—EDNAM, contracted from Edenham, signifies a hamlet on the river Eden, and is descriptive of the situation of the village. In its form this parish approaches to a square; its greatest length being $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and its greatest breadth 3 miles. It comprehends nearly $6\frac{1}{4}$ square miles. Ednam is bounded on the north by Eccles; on the west, by Stichel, part of Nenthorn, and Kelso; on the south, by Kelso and Sprouston; and on the east, by Eccles and Sprouston, from which last mentioned parish it is separated by the river Tweed.

Topographical Appearances.—Ednam hill, the only one in the parish, shelters the village on the east. It rises to no great height, being arable to the top, but commands a very extensive view of the surrounding country. The scenery in this parish, though not marked by any very striking feature, is highly pleasing. The vale of the Eden is extremely beautiful, and on each side of it is a gently undulating surface, ornamented with trees in clumps and in hedge-rows, and covered with the fruits of a rich and cultivated soil.

Climate.—No distempers prevail, which can be traced to local causes; and the general state of health in this district is such as to evince the salubrity of the climate.

Rivers.—Except the Tweed, which runs in a north-easterly direction, the Eden is the only stream belonging to Ednam. This small river has its source in the parish of Gordon; after passing through the parishes of Earlston, Smailholm, and Nenthorn, it forms

for a short way the boundary between Ednam and Kelso ; and then dividing the former parish into two unequal parts, it falls into the Tweed about three miles and a half below Kelso.

Soil, &c.—The land in this parish consists of the following varieties of soil in nearly equal proportions, viz. loam with a gravelly subsoil ; clay upon rather a porous subsoil ; light gravel with porous subsoil, and a light soil upon strata of moorland. These soils rest principally upon a freestone bottom.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The first settlement which took place at Ednam is believed to have been, next to that at Jedburgh, the earliest in this part of the country. There is no history of this parish either printed or in manuscript, and no individual resident in it possesses any document illustrative of its history or antiquities ; nor is its name associated with any important historical event. From the chartulary of Kelso, and other documents referred to in the “ Monastic annals of Teviotdale,” it would appear that the parish of Ednam had contributed to the support of the monks of the convent of Kelso. Besides the privilege of digging turf for fuel in Ednam moor, and the fishing in the Tweed from the bounds of Kelso to those of Birgham, the monks had three ploughgates of land, and also Ednam mill, with power to prevent the erection of any other within the parish, and to enforce the services which the inhabitants were bound to render to the proprietor of the mill.

Eminent Men.—James Thomson, author of the *Seasons* and other poems, was born in the village, most probably in the manse of Ednam, in the year 1700. He was the son of Thomas Thomson, the first minister settled in Ednam after the Revolution,—and of Beatrix Trotter, his wife. This parish cannot be expected to furnish any traditionary recollections of Thomson. When he was little more than a month old, his father was translated to Southdean ; and there is no reason to believe that the poet had any further connexion with the place of his nativity. He received the rudiments of education in the town of Jedburgh. His earliest poetical efforts are said to have been encouraged and directed by the Rev. Robert Riccaltoun, minister of Hobkirk ; and after finishing his course of study in the University of Edinburgh, he left Scotland, and never returned to it. In the year 1819–20, an obelisk, 52 feet high, was raised to his memory. It stands on a rising ground within the property of Mr Waldie of Hendersyde, nearly a mile from the village. The expense of this erec-

tion was defrayed by subscriptions contributed or promoted by the members of the Ednam Club, which was composed of several gentlemen living in the parish and neighbourhood, who used to meet and dine together in the village on the anniversary of the Poet's birth. Their last meeting was held in September 1819. A miniature of the poet from a painting in the collection of the late Earl of Buchan was presented to the club by his Lordship, and is kept in the manse.

The late William Dawson, Esq. of Graden, a distinguished agriculturist, who introduced the turnip husbandry into Scotland, was born at Harpertown, in this parish; and there is some reason to believe, from a comparison of the biography of Captain Cook with the parish register, that the father of the circumnavigator was a native of Ednam.

Landholders.—The landholders in this parish are, Lord Ward, the proprietor of the estate of Ednam; John Waldie, Esq. of Hendersyde; — Moffat, Esq.; Sir William Don, Bart.; Robert Thomson, Esq., formerly one of the magistrates of Edinburgh; and Sir William Dickson, Bart.

Modern Buildings.—Hendersyde Park, the residence of Mr Waldie, is the only mansion-house in the parish.

There are three corn-mills and a brewery.

Parochial Registers.—February 6, 1668, is the date of the earliest insertion in the register of baptisms. In this register there is one considerable blank, owing, probably, to the loss of one of the books.

III.—POPULATION.

According to a census taken with great care between the 14th and 25th of May 1838, the population of this parish then amounted to 589; of which number 274 were males, and 315 females. There were at that time 118 families. One landholder is resident.

The means of subsistence and the comforts of life are as generally diffused here as in any other part of the country; and, with not very many exceptions, the people are peaceable, sober, industrious, and attentive to the ordinances of religion.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture, &c.—There is no waste land in this parish. Of about 3700 acres of arable land, two parts are in corn, two in pasture and hay, and one part is in turnips and fallow. There are 40 acres in *policy*, 70 in pasture along the banks of the rivers, and

about 70 planted with trees of almost every description. The average rent both of arable ground and of pasture is about L. 2 per acre.

Wages.—The wages of agricultural labourers vary with the price of grain, in which they are most frequently paid. Ten shillings per week is about the average amount of what is earned by such of them as are paid in money, and by day-labourers in general. Journeymen masons and carpenters earn higher wages.

Live-Stock.—The cattle are of the kind denominated “short horns;” and the sheep are principally of the Leicester breed. Great attention has been paid to the improvement of stock. Mr Andrew Thompson, tenant in Highridgehall, in this parish, has succeeded in rearing a stock of sheep of the purest Leicester breed, which, on account of its excellence, has attracted the notice of competent judges from every part of the united kingdom.

Husbandry.—Either the four or the five shift system of husbandry is adopted. The land is thoroughly drained; no part of it is irrigated; but of late there has been a good deal of embankment. Leases are for nineteen or twenty years; and the capital and skill of the tenants, the accommodation afforded to them in farm buildings and enclosures, and the management of the different properties, are all favourable to the agriculture of this parish, which is understood to be in a highly improved state.

Improvements.—Within these few years, cottages upon an improved plan have been built on two of the farms belonging to Mr Waldie of Hendersyde. These cottages do not occupy much ground, but, besides other conveniences, they contain an upper as well as an under flat; and thus they afford greater facilities than have hitherto been enjoyed by the labouring classes, for separating the sick from the healthy, and also for assigning separate sleeping apartments to the male and female members of families. The universal adoption of this improvement would contribute greatly to the health, the cleanliness, and the comfort of the rural population; and might even be expected in the course of time to operate with beneficial effect upon their manners and morals, in so far as it would probably lead to a greater degree of reserve than at present obtains in the intercourse between young persons of different sexes in the humbler ranks of life.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is, as nearly as can be ascertained, as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, . . . | L.8730 | 0 | 0 |
| potatoes, turnips, &c. . . | 3045 | 0 | 0 |
| hay, whether meadow or cultivated, . . | 1100 | 0 | 0 |
| land in pasture, . . . | 2520 | 0 | 0 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce raised, | L.15,395 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village of Ednam, the only one in the parish, is about two miles and a quarter from the post and market-town of Kelso. There are two stone bridges and two wooden ones, all in an excellent state of repair. Besides parish roads, there are three turnpike roads,—one three miles and a half in length, and the other two more than two miles each.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, the only place of worship, is conveniently situated, being near the village, and though not in the centre of the parish, not more than two miles from any house therein. It was built in the year 1800, is in good repair, and affords accommodation for about 260 persons. No seat-rents are levied. The manse, an excellent house, was built in 1833–4. The glebe consists of five Scotch acres, and is let for L. 13 per annum. The stipend is paid in money, and, together with the allowance for communion elements, amounts to L. 158, 6s. 8d.; L. 111, 2s. 2d. being payable from the land, and L. 47, 4s. 6d. received from the Exchequer.

According to the census taken in 1838, the number of families belonging to the Established Church was 44, the number of Dissenting families 42, and the number, in which some of the members attended the Established Church, and some went to dissenting places of worship, 32. Three hundred and forty-five persons of all ages were connected with the Establishment, 240 were Dissenters, and there were 6 Episcopalians. There is no reason to believe, that since the date of the census referred to, any material alteration has taken place in this parish, either in the amount of population, or in the relative proportion of persons connected with the Establishment, and Dissenters. As has already been stated, the inhabitants of this parish, of all denominations, are, with not very many exceptions, attentive to the ordinances of religion. The average number of communicants in the parish church is about 160. There are no Societies for religious purposes; the average amount of church collections yearly for such purposes is about L.6.

Education.—The parish school is the only one, and no other is required. The branches of education taught in it are, reading of English and English grammar, writing, arithmetic, mathematics,

geography, Latin, Greek, French, and the principles of the Christian religion. The schoolmaster has a house and garden. His salary is the maximum; and the average yearly amount of school fees, which are very moderate, is L. 36.

There is no person in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read, and none between nine and fifteen who cannot write. There are two persons, one of them a woman of twenty-four, and the other a man of sixty, who cannot read; both of whom came lately into the parish from distant parts of the country. The benefits of education are fully enjoyed and duly valued. Mr John Gibson Smith, the teacher, by conciliating the affection of his numerous pupils, by adapting his instructions to their opening minds, and keeping alive amongst them an intense interest in the business of the school, succeeds in imparting to them as much knowledge as can be acquired in the time allotted for the education of children of the labouring classes. Religious instruction, occupying, as it ought to do, a prominent place in his plan of tuition, is conducted by him in such a way as to lead the young to an accurate acquaintance with Scripture history, and to clear views of the system of Divine truth contained in the Shorter Catechism, and thus to prepare them for being intelligent and profitable hearers of the word.

The writer of this Account has been informed, that the deposits in the Kelso Savings' Bank from this parish are from servants and from minors, and amount to L. 19, 2s. 1d.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The heritors of this parish assess themselves and their tenants half-yearly for the maintenance of the poor. The average number of persons on the poor's roll is 21; and the rate of allowance is different in different cases, varying from L. 3, 10s. to L. 6, 6s. per annum. Persons in destitute circumstances, whether paupers or not, occasionally receive assistance from the ordinary church collections, the average yearly amount of which is rather more than L. 7.

Alehouses.—There are three houses in which ale and spirits are sold, a greater number certainly than is either necessary or desirable. At the same time, these houses are frequented by not many of the parishioners, but chiefly by travellers and persons from the town of Kelso.

Fuel.—The only kind of fuel in common use is coal, which is procured at the rate of 7½d per cwt. from Northumberland.

July 1839.

PARISH OF CAVERS.*

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES STRACHAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—CAVERS is an appellation common to a number of places both in Scotland and England. The term, however, is not found in the Saxon language, and is therefore supposed to have been introduced by a prior people. In the Cambro-British, there are the words, *Cae* and *ber*, signifying short field or enclosure; and it is not improbable that this is the source from which the name is derived, notwithstanding that both the extent and openness of the parish, as it now exists, would seem to render the appellation most inapplicable.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish lies nearly due east and west along the south side of the Teviot, and is computed to be about 24 miles long, and varying from 8 to 2 miles in breadth. It is bounded towards the north-west and north, by the parishes of Hawick, Wilton and Minto; on the east and south-east, by the parishes of Bedrule and Hobkirk; and on the south and west, by the parishes of Newcastleton, Ewes, and Westerkirk.

Its figure, on a general survey, may be regarded as in some degree resembling a sand-glass, from the circumstance of its being narrow at the middle, and expanded towards each extremity; but its outline, when minutely traced, is found to be exceedingly irregular, owing to the peculiar manner in which it intersects, and is intersected, by other parishes. From the Weensland-mill, below Hawick, to the junction of the Allan Water with the Teviot, above it, (including a distance of about six miles), a considerable portion of the parish of Hawick lies on the south side of the river; and this, together with the whole of the parish of Kirkton intervening, divides, in some measure, Cavers parish into two departments, leaving, however, the upper department considerably the largest. At this particular point, it is only about

* Drawn up by the Rev. Henry Scott Riddell, Caerlanrig.

two miles broad. The Teviot, with the exception just mentioned, forms its natural boundary to the north. To the east, it meets the Rule Water, but at the lower extremity, shoots out to a narrow point below it, towards Spittal, and thence, embracing almost the whole of the northern side of Rubberslaw, the boundary line proceeds in a southern direction, but with many irregularities, along the high mountainous ridges which separate the Teviotdale from the Liddisdale district, towards the top of Tutop, where the shires of Roxburgh and Dumfries meet. Taking from thence a north-west direction, but with many irregularities, it crosses the pass of Moss-paul by the Wisp, and Pikethowe to Teviotstone, the western extremity of the parish.

Topographical Appearances.—If this parish be irregular in its outline, it is not less diversified in its general lineaments, possessing almost every variety of hill and dale, glen and shaw, soil and pasturage. Its two principal characteristics, however, may be considered as these; its lower department, though undulating, is yet upon the whole flat, and in a state of regular and well-conducted cultivation, with hedges and hedge-row trees for enclosures, and portions of thriving plantation, suitably interspersed,—while the upper department is almost altogether of a pastoral character, and in a state of nature, diversified with lonely wild and stream, green hill, and deep glen. From Pencrestpen, a little pyramidal mountain, lying south of Stobbs Castle, where the pastoral part of the parish may be said fairly to commence, to Teviotstone, where it terminates, a distance of about fourteen miles,—an interesting family of hills lift up their heads, remarkable for their rotund and distinct appearance, and the manner in which they are interwoven with one another. These, although not very high hills, are nevertheless seen from many points at a very considerable distance; and as thus seen, especially on summer and autumn days, when fantastically overhung, as they often are, with all their splendid drapery of towering clouds, obstructing at one time, and emitting at another, the downward-darting rays of the sun, they exhibit a prospect which the lover of mountain scenery can scarcely fail to admire. These hills in the summer season are covered with verdure; few rocks or stones, and only some plots of heath here and there appearing; or on certain points of high exposure, a few acres of broken ground, termed in pastoral phrase “moss-hags,” lending a darker feature, and heightening the effect by contrast. Crawford, in his Cowdenknowes, has apparently, with fond recollec-

tion, well characterized the braes of Teviotdale, when he says, "the Teviot braes are green and gay." But Gilpin, in his Tour, thus ambitiously describes them, "the downy sides of all these valleys of the Teviot are covered with sheep, which often appear to hang on immense green walls : so steep is the descent in some parts, that the eye from the bottom scarce distinguishes the slope from the perpendicular. Several of these mountainous slopes, for some of them are very lofty," he adds, "are finely tinted with moss of different hues, which gives them a very rich surface." It may be added, that these hills seem to be a continuation of that irregular mountainous track which, from the head of Clydesdale, stretches across the country by Tweedshaws, Lochskeen, and Ettrickpen, and which separates the rivers and streams of this part of Scotland, sending them to the eastern and western seas.

The largest and loftiest of these mountains is the Wisp, immediately above Mossypaul, rising 1830 feet above the level of the sea. But it is not so much either its largeness or its height, which renders it remarkable, as its position, and the diversified and extensive prospect which it commands. From its summit, the sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed is observed to the eastward : to the south and west, the Solway Frith, and, if the atmosphere be clear, the Isle of Man. Tutop is of equal height with the Wisp, or, according to some measurements, 10 feet higher. Pikethowe, Cauldcleugh, Gritmoor, and some others in this vicinity, are computed to be nearly of the same elevation. But, besides these, there are a few hills in this parish which serve to impress upon it a peculiar character. These, from their isolated positions, appear like pyramids in the wilderness, conveying the idea, that the district must at one time have been visited from the west by some violent inundation, sweeping almost every thing along with it. The little conical mountains referred to are the Maiden-paps, Leap-hill, Rubberslaw, Pencrest and Skelf-hill-pen. The last of these is the most remarkable. On the south side, it rises abruptly out of a deep glen ; on the north, it ascends more gradually till, attaining to a certain height, it becomes somewhat rocky and rugged, and then contracting itself suddenly, it towers yet higher, presenting a peak like the spire of some large edifice, "reared by human hands." This and Pencrest-pen are memorable for having preserved their British names through so many successive generations of different people. Rubberslaw, rising to a height of 1419 feet above the sea's level, though situated in the lower division of the parish, is

in some respects of a more bleak and rugged cast than any of these just mentioned. It bears more the appearance of volcanic eruption than any of the hills in the neighbourhood, or perhaps in this part of the island. Its hollow dells and rocky recesses were once the haunts of the persecuted Covenanters, and not only the place but the very stone on which the volume of God's word was laid when the celebrated Peden declared its truths to a large congregation there assembled, is still pointed out.—Independently of all these mountains above-mentioned, another range of hills, in the upper division of the parish, runs along the river. And then, constituting the immediate banks of the Teviot, are the holms or haughs, which, are for the most part enclosed, and in a state of tillage.

Hydrography.—The Teviot takes its rise, and is the principal river, in this parish. The whole of its course is, in length, about forty miles, and in that course it receives the Borthwick and the Ale, descending from their wild moorlands on the north : and the Allan, the Slitrige, the Rule, the Jed, the Oxnam, and the Kail, with all their manifold tributaries, on the south. All the streams in this parish are tributaries to the Teviot, and which, rising in the south, find their way to it in a northern direction. To this, however, there are two exceptions, that of Lymyleuch burn, and that of the Frostly, which flow down their respective glens about five miles, in a direction nearly parallel to the Teviot, the former rising at the Pikethowe, and the latter in Linhope-grains. The Allan Water, the next tributary deserving of particular notice, issues from two fountains in the same range of hills which we formerly described, and which send the Hermitage Water south to join the Liddle. This stream, after pursuing its course some miles by Skelf-hill and Priesthaugh, through one of the loveliest pastoral vales, perhaps, in the south of Scotland, turns abruptly from an eastern to a northern direction, and, after a rough and rapid course, discharges itself from overhanging birken bowers into the Teviot at Allam-mouth Peel, about a mile above Branzholm. The Slitrige, a stream of greater note, also takes its rise in this parish. Issuing from several springs in the Leap-hill, Maidenpaps, and Gritmoor, it likewise for some time flows in an eastern direction ; but on leaving the stately woods around Stobbs Castle, it turns its course due north, and, after a run of ten miles, mingles itself with the Teviot, as just mentioned. The Rule, a rapid mountain stream, bounds in part this parish on the east. The woods which adorn its banks,

particularly at the mansion-house of Wells, (one of the seats of Sir W. F. Elliott, of Stobbs and Wells, Bart.) are of great variety and value. After flowing twelve miles, and, touching upon the lower extremity of the parish, it joins the Teviot at Spittal, opposite Minto Craggs.

Climate, &c.—The climate is, upon the whole, cold and moist, especially in the upper division of the parish. Of late years, however, it has much improved, owing to the great extent of draining which has taken place. No distemper, in particular, now prevails.

No slate, limestone, or coal has ever been found, or is supposed to exist in this parish.

All the streams abound with trout, and are visited annually by salmon from the sea. The principal spawning season is about Martinmas. There is abundance of almost all kinds of game in the parish, but especially of black game. The hill-fox, or, as sometimes termed, the grey-hound fox, is a native of the upper part of the parish. This species is much larger, more elegantly formed, and of a greyer colour, than the more inland or plantation fox. The erne or Scottish eagle, in certain seasons, frequents the more mountainous districts of the parish.

There are no plants or fruits which are not found in the parishes around, save the foxfoot, the foxglove, the cranberry and cloudberry.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—The history of the parish, or, more particularly, the history of the Kirklands of Cavers, as they are for the most part designated in ancient records, is so intimately connected with the history of Roxburghshire in general, that they cannot well be treated of separately. It appears that Roxburghshire was established as a sheriffdom as early as the Scoto-Saxon period: and, as the Douglasses were mainly instrumental in freeing Teviotdale from the oppression of the English in the reign of Edward III., or about the year 1384, that sheriffship, together with the property of the lands of Cavers, for a long succession of generations, followed the fortunes of this bold and ambitious house. The lands of Cavers, with the sheriffwick of Roxburghshire, were granted to George Earl of Angus in 1398. On his demise in 1402, this office and that property seem to have been invested in Isobel Countess of Mar, who transferred them, but without the necessary assent and sanction of the King, to the Earl of Douglas, then a prisoner in England. By this it was supposed that both had become escheat: and King Robert III., desirous of rewarding

the eminent and loyal services of Sir David Fleeming of Biggar, conferred upon him, in 1405, the lands of Cavers with the sheriffwick of Roxburghshire. He was not long permitted, however, either to enjoy these lands or fill this office. As Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalwolsy, a former sheriff of this shire, and a man equally eminent for his bravery and justice, had been seized upon by Sir William Douglas, the Knight of Liddesdale, when in the act of discharging the duties of his office, carried to his Castle of Hermitage, and there immured in the dungeon till he died of want, so Sir David Fleeming was assassinated at Longherdmanston, when returning from conducting James, heir to the crown, on board the ship which was to carry him to France, by James Douglas, second son of Archibald Earl of Douglas, who fell at the battle of Verneuil. After this the lands of Cavers, together with the hereditary sheriffship of Roxburghshire, were possessed by the family of Douglas till the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions. From an unprinted act, of date 11th June 1646, it appears that a parliamentary ratification of the Kirklands of Cavers passed in favour of (Douglas,) the sheriff of Teviotdale. The town of Cavers was taken and laid waste by the English in 1596, and whether it ever was rebuilt and replenished does not plainly appear. The old baronial castle, which was of very considerable strength and importance, was situated not far distant from the place where the old church of Cavers is still standing. William the first Earl of Douglas granted the advowson of the church of Cavers to the Monks of Melrose, in whose abbey he was interred in 1384. After the Reformation, the patronage of Cavers Church was granted to Douglas of Cavers, with whose lineal descendant it still remains.

Tradition affirms that the kirk of Cavers originally stood at Old-North House, a little village which has now nearly disappeared, in the upper division of the parish, and about ten miles distant from the present site of Cavers Church. The report goes further, and asserts that the kirk was a thatched one, but no records, if such ever existed, have been discovered to throw light on the transference, or to confute or confirm that report. Certain it is, that there is here an old burial-place, though so much decayed as scarcely to be recognizable; and the writer of this has conversed with two old and respectable individuals of the district, who could remember two persons being interred in the kirk-yard of Old North House. Their graves are still discernible by the

careful observer, together with a number of what may have been whin head-stones kything around, but whose tops are now level with the green sward above. Sheepfolds now occupy the place where the church is said to have stood.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Sir William F. Elliott of Stobbs and Wells, Bart.; and James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers, the patron of the parish.

Eminent Men.—Of eminent characters connected with the parish, George Augustus Elliott, Lord Heathfield, may be mentioned first. He was the ninth son of Sir Gilbert Elliott of Stobbs and Wells, Bart., the lineal descendant of the far-famed “Gibbie an’ the Gouden Garters,” who, under peculiar circumstances, married Mary Scott, a flower of Yarrow, and received along with her as dowry, in faithful fulfilment of her father’s promise, “the half o’ a Michelmas moon.”* Lord Heathfield was born at the paternal estate of Stobbs in 1718. He discovered, in early youth, a predilection for a military life, and entered upon his brilliant career as an officer in the 23d Regiment of Foot or Royal Welsh Fusileers. He rose step by step to a high status in the army and in his country’s estimation. Serving in Germany, he was wounded at the battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy. Having been appointed to the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons in March 1759, he headed, in the August following, the second line of horse, under the Marquis of Granby, at the battle of Minden. After having been constituted a Lieutenant-General, he was called from Germany for the purpose of assisting as second in command at the reduction of the Havannah. In 1774, he was appointed Commander-in-chief in Ireland, but feeling on his arrival dissatisfied with the appointment, he requested to be recalled, which request was complied with; and on the demise of Lord Cornwallis, he was made Governor of Gibraltar, which place he defended during the siege in the years 1779–80–81 and 82, with such skill and bravery as merited the highest praise. In acknowledgement of the services done to his country here and elsewhere, a pension of L.2000 a year was awarded to him in 1783, when he was created a Knight of the Bath. In 1787, he was raised to the dignity of a Peer of Great Britain, but, dying in 1790, he did not long enjoy these honours, so nobly won and worthily conferred.

* This means what he could plunder from his enemies on the English Border during the period implied. Her father was Adam Scott of Kirkhope, in the parish of Yarrow.

Dr John Leyden, so eminently distinguished by the poetical genius which he displayed, and the classical knowledge which he acquired in so short a life, was born at the village of Denholm, in this parish, in September 1775, of parents humble in their rank and circumstances of life, but eminent for their moral worth and intelligence. He entered the University of Edinburgh in 1790, and in due course was licensed to preach the gospel as probationer in the Church of Scotland. Ambitious, however, of still higher attainments in literature and science than he had yet achieved, he shortly after this entered upon the study of medicine, with a view of going abroad, chiefly in order that he might procure opportunities of enhancing his acquirements in the oriental languages, and thereby gratifying the passion which reigned supreme in his heart. Through the patronage of the Right Honourable William Dundas, he was appointed assistant-surgeon in the hospital of Madras, but in which situation he did not long continue. After holding the situation of assistant-surgeon in the Mysore Survey, and a professorship in the College of Bengal, he eventually, under the patronage of Lord Minto, the then Governor-general of India was promoted to the office of Judge of the twenty-four Purgunahs of Calcutta. He accompanied the Governor-General on the expedition to Java, made for the purpose of investigating the manners, language, and literature of the tribes of that island, and for which Leyden's extensive knowledge of the eastern dialects and customs, eminently qualified him. There he was seized with fever, and this extraordinary man, in whom were combined such virtues, learning and genius, and withal such athletic powers and activity, as are never, or very rarely to be met with in one individual, after three days illness, died on the eve of the battle which gave Java to the British Empire.

John Armstrong of Gilknockie, the famous border freebooter, along with a number of his companions, was, by order of King James V., executed at Caerlanrig, and interred there, in or near by the chapel burial-ground.*

* This individual, by harassing and plundering his neighbours on the English borders, appears, in carrying forward his predatory adventures, to have acted principally upon the mistaken notion of his being his country's eminent benefactor; and his kindred and Scottish neighbours seem to have encouraged this notion to the utmost in esteeming him highly as such: King James, however, having sworn that he would "mak the thresh-buss keep the cow," thought very differently, and all the marauder's entreaties and proffered presents (which latter were neither few nor of small value,) could not avail in inducing the Prince to preserve his life. A number of his companions were carried to Edinburgh as hostages for insuring the better behaviour of their friends left behind on the border; but nothing at this time could chain down

Parochial Registers.—These have hitherto been very imperfectly kept, and are consequently very defective.

Antiquities.—The principal antiquity of this parish is the Cat-rail, or Picts work ditch, (meaning literally in the language of its constructors,) the partition of defence. It passes through the centre of the parish in a south-east direction, for the space of about seven miles. Entering it at the farm of Northhouse-haugh, it proceeds to Doecleugh, where it appears particularly distinct. Leaving two hill-forts or British strengths on the left—the one on Skelf-hill farm, and usually called Doecleugh Castle,—the other on the farm of Priest-haugh, and uniformly called the Brugh hill,—it enters the Dod, and ascends the Carriage hill, where it again becomes peculiarly prominent. From this height it descends and crosses the Langside-burn, where it constitutes the known boundaries of several estates. Traversing thence the northern base of the Maiden-paps to the Leapsteal, it holds its onward course into Liddisdale through the pass of the dividing hills near Robertslin.

There are likewise, besides these just mentioned, a number of camps in the parish, some of which are called Roman, and others of them Saxon camps. An old castle or border tower stood at a place called Castleweary, in the upper division of the parish, scarcely any vestige of which is now remaining. Allan-mouth-peel, another feudal fortress, situated at the junction of the Allan with the Teviot, appears from the portion of it yet remaining, together with the wall and fosse with which it has evidently been surrounded, to have been a place of considerable importance in feudal times. Its last occupier, it is said, was a brother of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, the then warden of the Scottish border. At Caerlanrig, about forty years ago, a number of urns, said to be Roman, were dug up. There is here also one of these camps. At Priest-haugh a great number of gold coins were found some considerable time ago, supposed to have been there deposited by the attendants of Queen Mary, when she visited Bothwell at Hermitage Castle, in Liddisdale. In ancient times Cavers, like several other parishes in Teviotdale, had an hospital for the poor,

the border spirit, or induce its inhabitants to alter their freebooting habits, and these hostages were shortly afterwards executed at Edinburgh; which circumstance seems to have given rise to the impression and report that obtains with not a few, that Jonnie Armstrong himself was put down at Edinburgh, and not at Caerlanrig, which, however, is not the fact.—See Buchanan's History.

wounded, and old. It was situated at a place called Spittal, at the lower extremity of the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish now amounts to 1625.

In 1801, it was 1382

1811, 1402

1821, 1504

1831, 1625

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of families in the parish, | 316 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 153 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | 108 |

The total number of proprietors in the parish is 7, all of whom possess land of L. 50 a-year in value and upwards. Only one of them is resident.

Character of the People.—In the character of the people there exists considerable diversity, according to the localities which they inhabit, and the employments which they follow. In general they are sober, industrious, and intelligent. As the farms, for the most part, are extensive, and the farmers wealthy, there is considerable disproportion of rank; but the farm-servants and shepherds are kept comfortable, and these seem, especially in the landward part of the parish, contented with their condition and circumstances. Their habits are cleanly, and their food wholesome. About six or seven years ago, poaching, not by the inhabitants of the parish, but by poachers from a distance, prevailed to a very great extent; but vigorous measures having been adopted to prevent the inroads of those lawless bands of immoral and misguided men, who infested the whole country around, poaching has become a thing very rarely practised.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Live-Stock.—The upper division of the parish is particularly well adapted for pastoral purposes. The sheep are all white-faced, and regular stocks are kept. Great pains have long been taken to obtain and preserve the true Cheviot breed, since if this breed becomes corrupted, its tendency to degenerate is fully more than that of any other. Through attention and superior skill, some farms in the parish are stocked with sheep, which are almost purely Cheviot. The total number of sheep pastured in the parish is about 11,500. The cattle are for the greater part of the Teeswater breed, and great attention has likewise been paid to rearing and improving them.

Rent.—The grazing of a cow or full-grown ox, L. 5; that of a ewe or full-grown sheep, 6s. Valued rental of the parish; L. 18,877, 16s. 8d. Scots; real rental, L. 13,000 Sterling.

Wages.—The rate of labour per day, for men, during summer, 1s. 4d., and for women, 10d. including victuals; and during winter, for men, 1s., and for women, 6d. The wages of artisans vary from 2s. to 3s. per day.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Hawick, in the adjoining parish of that name, is the nearest market-town, distant about a mile from the nearest point of the parish, and from Cavers church about three miles. The only village is Denholm, situated near the lower extremity of the parish. It contains a population of about 500 souls. The principal means of subsistence is stocking-weaving, given out by the stocking-manufacturers of Hawick. The wages, of course, are regulated by the extent and quality of the workmanship. A skilful and industrious person may win, on an average, throughout the year, 15s. per week.

Means of Communication.—These, for the greater part, are suitable and good—the turnpike roads being pretty numerous, and in general in a very sufficient state of repair. The main road between Edinburgh and Carlisle, entering at Tein-side bridge, runs through the upper part of the parish, a distance of about seven miles, on which are four mails in the day to and from Edinburgh. Besides these, there are also two other coaches which run the same way in the same time. A turnpike of the same quality as the main one, branching off at Hawick, runs through the lower division to Jedburgh, Kelso, &c. Another, up the Slitrig, communicates with the English border counties, by Note-o'-the-Gate, Carter-fell, &c.; while the *county roads*, leading in various directions, are too numerous to be here noticed. A penny post-office is established at Denholm, and another at Caerlanrig Chapel. There are many bridges in the parish, some of which are constructed of stone, and others of wood, the latter being chiefly for the conveniency of foot-passengers; and the fences, whether consisting of hedges, dry stone dike, or of stone and lime, are in general pretty well kept.

Ecclesiastical State.—As one church could not possibly accommodate the whole parish, the present one was built with a view to the accommodation of the lower division of it; and for this it is pretty well placed. It was erected in 1822, and contains seats for 500. The building is very substantial, as well as somewhat elegant, and is at present in an excellent state of repair. The number of communicants is about 300.

The manse was built in 1813, and is also in good repair.

Caerlanrig Chapel.—This chapel is situated in the upper part of the parish, and is intended for the accommodation not only of the inhabitants of that district of Cavers, but also of those in the upper part of the parish of Hawick. The bounds pertaining to it are about ten miles long, and, on an average, nine broad. The chapel is centrically situated. It is said to be of 200 years standing and upwards, as a Protestant place of worship, and has been thrice built on different sites. It seems to have superseded the Roman Catholic chapel, which stood here in the burial-ground, and which is still preserved and occupied as such: or else it was found necessary for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the district when the kirk at Old-Northhouse was removed, or done away. At first, and until a chaplain was appointed to the charge, the minister of Cavers was under the inconvenient necessity of performing public duty at Caerlanrig chapel, one Sunday every month. It is not distinctly known when a chaplain was first appointed, and this practice discontinued. The present chapel was erected by the contributions of the inhabitants of the district, about forty years ago, the ground, the wood, slate, and lime being given by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. It is at present in good repair, but found to be too small. The seats are all free, unless in so far as they are appointed to, and appropriated by, heads of families. As no endowment has been procured, and no regular stipend assigned, the chaplain is not ordained, and the chapel consequently is not constituted as a Chapel of Ease. In so wild and extensive a district, this occasions very great inconveniency, both to the preacher and the people, as well as to the ministers of the two parishes respectively to which the chapel belongs. The number of souls dependent upon this chapel for religious instruction is 700, 216 of whom reside in the parish of Hawick, and the rest, of course, in the parish of Cavers. Others, also, from the outskirts of the neighbouring parishes, frequently attend, as being nearer to the chapel than to their own churches.

The annual allowance to the chapel minister is, on an average, L. 52—L. 25 of which is given by way of bounty by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; L. 5 by James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers; and L. 3 by the minister of Hawick. The rest is contributed by the farmers, and other inhabitants of the district, each giving as he thinks proper, or finds convenient.

As no manse or dwelling-house had hitherto been annexed to the chapel, the Duke of Buccleuch, about two years ago, appoint-

ed one to be erected at his sole expense: this he keeps in repair, allowing, at the same time, some other valuable perquisites.

The poor of the district being regularly supported by their respective parishes of Hawick and Cavers, the collections made in the chapel are applied to the keeping of it, together with the side-parochial school, in repair, and the procuring of other requisites, such as communion elements, &c. unless when, in cases of emergency, some portion is appropriated to charitable purposes.

Both at the church and chapel, Divine service is generally well attended.

Dissenting Chapel.—There is a Dissenting house or chapel at Denholm, understood to be supported by James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers. It belongs to the denomination of Independents. There is also a considerable number of other Dissenters, who, for the most part, adhere to one or other of the various Dissenting congregations in Hawick.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is 3, all of which are parochial,—one situated in Denholm,—another near Stobbs on the Slitrig,—and another at Teviothead or Caerlanrig Chapel. The two latter are termed *side-parochial* schools. The branches usually taught are, English, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, mensuration of superficies, solids, heights, and distances, algebra, &c.

| | Cavers. | Slitrig-Cavers. | Teviothead or Caerlanrig. |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| The present salaries are, | L. 30 | L. 12 | L. 15 13 14 |
| School-fees drawn, - | 25 | 19 | 19 0 0 |

The school-fees are payable by the quarter of thirteen weeks, and are, for English, 2s.; for English and writing, 2s. 6d.; for English, writing, and arithmetic, 3s.; and for higher branches, 5s. The teachers have the legal accommodations. Through the generosity of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, and his Chamberlain for this district, (William Ogilvie, Esq. of Chesters,) the *side* parochial schoolmaster at Caerlanrig has, of late, received ground not only for a garden but for the keep of a cow. There is no person betwixt six and fifteen years of age, nor upwards of fifteen, in the parish, who cannot read or write, although from many, the schools are distant and inaccessible.

Libraries.—There are four libraries in the parish. The Subscription Library at Denholm was instituted in 1805, and contains at present 880 volumes. The Woodside Library is the property of Mr Douglas of Cavers solely, to which any person can have access gratuitously. It was instituted in 1825, for the use of the

young people attending Denholm Sabbath school, and contains about 1000 volumes.*

The Caerlanrig Chapel or Teviothead Library was instituted a considerable number of years ago, and consists of a pretty large collection of well selected books. The Juvenile Library at the same place is, as the name implies, principally intended for the benefit of the young, but free to all.†

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are provided for by assessment conducted in the usual manner; the annual average amount of which, for the last ten years, is L. 273. The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, as *regular* paupers, during the same period is 53, and the average sum allotted to each is L. 5, 3s. per annum. The assessment for the current half-year is L. 132, and there being 49 paupers on the roll, the average sum allotted each is 2s. 0½d. per week.

The money raised by means of the weekly collections made at the church, amounting to about L. 9 a-year, is left to the sole management of the kirk-session, and is distributed in small sums among such poor of the parish as require only a temporary relief.

As the system of giving parochial aid, above described, has obtained for many years, the certainty which it gives of relief being afforded, generally induces a readiness to take advantage of it on the part of the necessitous.

Saving Banks.—The nearest of these is at Hawick; and there is another at Jedburgh: both are in a flourishing condition. The one at Hawick was instituted January 7, 1815. At the 30th May last, the number of depositors was 473, from all classes of the community, but especially those for whose benefit such institutions are chiefly intended.‡

* This library is not confined to this parish. About ten years ago, Mr Douglas adopted the scheme of Mr Samuel Brown of Haddington, in regard to "Itinerating Libraries," which was to send fifty volumes to a convenient station, where they should remain, in order to be read by the inhabitants of the place, for a twelvemonth, and then be returned, when another box, containing fifty other volumes, should be forwarded, and so on.

† As this library is altogether free, a quarterly lecture is about to be instituted, the collections arising from which are to be applied partly to the repairing of the old books, and partly to the purchasing of new ones.

‡ The following shows the state of this Bank, as ascertained by official documents submitted to the last general meeting of managers, on the 1st of August 1839.

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------|------|
| Amount due to the Savings Bank by the British Linen Company, | L. 6894 | 12 | 5 |
| Gross sum of deposits made during the year ending 30th May last, including interest on Bank account, | | 1761 | 0 0 |
| Amount paid to depositors during same period, | | 1933 | 10 0 |
| Received from 114 depositors, L. 814 17 0 | Paid L. 124 acct. in full, | 1378 | 8 0 |
| Added to accounts still open, 946 3 0 | Paid from accts. still open, | 555 | 0 0 |
| Received from British Linen Co. 833 0 0 | Paid to British Linen Co. | 662 | 0 0 |

Inns.—In Denholm, there are 4 or 5 inns: in the landward part of the parish, 3. These latter, being more especially for the accommodation of travellers, are regarded as an advantage; and, in general, it is not understood that any of these houses have had any demoralizing effect.

Fuel.—Peat is a good deal used for fuel in the upper department of the parish. In the more inland parts, the principal fuel is coal. It is brought far, and from various quarters—Mid-Lothian, Berwickshire, and other places: it is therefore very expensive. Of late, however, since the Duke of Buccleuch took his coal-mines in Cannoby into his own hand, great quantities of coal have been brought thence into this parish: and there is a prospect from this source of immense benefit to many.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Very considerable improvements have taken place in this parish since the last Statistical Account was written, both with respect to the farming of land, and the management of stock, as well, indeed, as in many other matters. With regard to agriculture, as much has been done, or is doing, especially on the estate of Cavers, as seems advisable in a district where the climate is precarious, and coal and lime are wanting.

Store-farming has been improved. Summer hirseling is given up, and ewe-milking done away. The flocks, being left to wander wide and more at will than formerly, acquire more strength and condition for enabling them to brave the hardships of winter. More stells, and on more eligible situations, have been erected for shelter, and greater quantities of hay, in case of severe and protracted storms, are generally provided.

The parishioners are more comfortably accommodated than formerly in their houses. Greater attention is paid to clothing and cleanliness: and the daily food is in several respects more wholesome.

In the upland division of the parish, there is much land lying untouched that might be tilled: but considering the precariousness of the climate, it is very questionable whether the land in its natural state, and as it is presently stocked, is not more profitable to the possessor than it ever otherwise could be. The greatest deficiency is the want of plantations.

September 1839.

PARISH OF CASTLETOWN.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANGUS BARTON, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE origin of the modern, as well as of the ancient name of this parish, is abundantly plain. Upon the summit of a precipice, about 100 feet perpendicular, on the east bank of the river Liddal, and immediately above the church, there was a strong fort or castle, the rampart and fosse of which remain entire: near to these, in the place where the present road was formed, and in several other parts in the immediate neighbourhood, many hearthstones were dug up, where a town or village had formerly stood. Hence the name of Castle-town. But the ancient name of this district, and indeed that by which it is still most frequently denominated, was Liddisdale, from the river Liddal, which runs through it in a direction from east to south. In the ancient histories, and geographical accounts of Scotland, it is called the county of Liddisdale, and in old writs it is designed the Lordship of that name.

Erection, Form, and Extent.—This parish formerly belonged to the Presbytery of Jedburgh; but when the five churches of Eskdale were erected into the Presbytery of Langholm, it was added to them in the year 1743. This was done on account of its great distance from the former seat of the presbytery. Its form approaches nearly to that of a triangle, whose base runs from east to west, along the head of Teviotdale, and whose opposite vertex points to Solway Frith. It contains, according to the map of the county, about 52,160 Scotch acres. It is the largest parish in the south of Scotland, being upwards of 18 miles in length, and about 12 in breadth.

Topographical Appearances.—The general appearance of the upper part of the parish is mountainous; the lower part is hilly; and a great part of it, at a distance from the banks of the rivers,

* The greater part of this article, the Topography, Antiquities, &c. taken from the Old Account,—the remainder from different sources.

is bleak and wild to a high degree. But its appearance along the banks of the rivers is altogether different. These are generally covered with natural woods, or young plantations in a very thriving state. The barren wilds are entirely hid from the view ; the windings of the river, and the fine holm-land on every side, present the most picturesque scenes, or exhibit rich prospects to the eye. The inhabited part of the parish consists of two valleys. That along the Hermitage is about ten miles in length, from the source of the river to the point where it loses its name in the Liddal. At the head of this river the country is entirely mountainous. The mountains are very high and steep, but are generally dry, and afford excellent sheep pasture. The greatest part of this stream is fringed with natural wood ; it possesses much rural beauty, and exhibits the pastoral scenes of life in great perfection. The other valley, or strath, is that along the sides of the Liddal. Near the head of the parish on the east, the rivers Liddal and Tyne, which run by Newcastle, take their rise, in the midst of an immense bog, surrounded by mountains. The Tyne winds slowly to the east, between the bleak mountains and the dreary wastes of Northumberland, by *Keelder Castle*. The Liddal runs due west for a few miles, and then runs due south. This part of the country is mountainous, high, and cold, until it commences to run south, after which it presents excellent pasture. On the east and west sides, the thriving plantations of the Duke of Buccleuch, and below these, those of Mr Scott Elliot of Lariston, and Mr W. O. Rutherford of Dinlabyre, and on the east, the plantations and woods of Mr Elliot of Whitehaugh, a little below the confluence of the rivers, form a landscape highly beautiful. Here the valley widens considerably, and improvements are everywhere seen.

Mountains.—The principal mountains are, Tudhope, Millenwood-fell, Windhead, Greatmoor, Dun, Dod, Hermitage, Peel-fell, Roan-fell, Lariston-fell, Carby-Hill, and Tinnis hills. The last-mentioned is seen as a land-mark at a great distance out at sea. Tudhope is said to be 1830 feet above the level of the sea, and Millenwood-fell and Windhead are nearly 2000 feet.

Rivers and Fish.—The rivers are the Liddal, the Hermitage, the Tweeden, the Kershope, (which divides the two kingdoms), the Tinnis and the Blackburn ; with several other streams of inferior note. All of them are plentifully stored with trouts, and afford excellent sport to the angler.

Climate and Longevity.—The climate is very damp, from the
ROXBURGH. F f

high land attracting the vapours of the Atlantic, and from the retentive nature of the soil. But the district is very healthy. Within these few years, instances have occurred of persons reaching very nearly the patriarchial age of one hundred.

Minerals.—There is great abundance of limestone in the parish, of different qualities. It is wrought to a great extent in the estates of Lariston and Thorlieshope. Coal is wrought to a diminished extent on the estate of Liddlebank. Freestone quarries of excellent stone are everywhere found, excepting at the head of the Hermitage, where there is nothing but blue whinstone.

Medicinal Springs.—There are several springs in this parish, strongly impregnated with sulphur. There is one at the head of it, at Thorlieshope, in that part called the *Dead Water*, unfortunately situated in the middle of that vast morass where the Liddel and the Tyne take their rise. In wet seasons it is weakened by the surrounding water. It is much frequented by persons afflicted with cutaneous and scrofulous complaints, who receive great benefit from it. They drink the water, and use it as a warm bath. A very strong mineral spring is found at Lawstown; and there is one at Flat, inferior in strength to that at Thorlieshope, but of the same quality. There are several springs of this kind. One is found on the Tweeden, exceedingly powerful, and containing a great quantity of water, where large masses of petrified matter appear on every side converted into solid stone. The progress of the petrification is distinct and beautiful. The *fog* or *moss*, which grows on the edge of the spring, and is sprinkled with the water, is about eight inches high; the lower part is converted into solid stone; the middle appears as if half frozen, and the top is green and flourishing. The petrified matter, when burnt, is resolved into very fine lime. The spring itself, when led over the fields in little rills, fertilizes them exceedingly.

There are several beautiful waterfalls on the river Tweeden, the little streams of Dinlabyre, Harden, and Sundhope. But on the river Blackburn, such scenes are in all their beauty and variety. Sometimes the river shoots over a perpendicular rock, in one unbroken sheet of water, forming a beautiful cascade; at other times it is darted over tremendous precipices, and rages furiously among the huge masses of the rock below. In this wild and romantic vale, nature appears in various forms, now beautiful, then awful, sometimes sublime, and frequently terrible. The author of this account measured the principal falls. One is 27

feet perpendicular in height, another $31\frac{1}{2}$; the breadth of the rock over which it falls, 36; a third is $37\frac{1}{2}$ in height, and 20 feet wide.

Woods.—The natural woods consist of oak, ash, birch, and alder. Considerable plantations have been made of Scots fir, spruce, larch, oak, ash, beech and plane. They are all in a thriving condition.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—This parish gave birth to the celebrated Dr Armstrong, author of the *Art of Preserving Health*, whose father and brother were ministers of it.

Antiquities.—There are several monuments of great antiquity in the parish, but their origin and their history are involved in much obscurity. Even tradition itself says little concerning them. Though this parish comprehended a great part of the middle march between the two kingdoms, yet, excepting a few detached facts, there is nothing of consequence preserved or related by historians.

Castles.—Hermitage Castle stands upon the bank of the river of that name. It has been a very strong building, nearly 100 feet square, defended by a strong rampart and ditch. The walls are entire, and it has lately been put into nearly a complete state of repair. Within a few yards of the castle are the remains of the ancient chapel of Hermitage, now in ruins, in the middle of the burying-ground still in use. The font is in the wall of the churchyard. The castle of Clintwood, on the farm of Flight, appears to have been a very strong building. It has now been entirely razed. The castle, from which the parish derives its name, in former times, must have been impregnable on the west and north. On the north it was defended by a very deep ravine; on the west, by the Liddal, and a precipice of more than 100 feet in height; and on the east and south by two ramparts of great strength, and a fosse of great depth.

Camps.—The principal camp is on the top of Carby Hill. This hill is detached from all others, and commands a view of the whole country, and of all that part of Cumberland, by Bew Castle, &c. The camp is entirely circular, and occupies the whole summit of the hill; it is fortified by a very strong wall of stones, and a road plainly appears to have been made up to it, winding round a part of the hill, and entering it on the south. It is about 100 feet dia-

meter. In the centre a small space is inclosed with a strong wall, and round it are eight circles of different sizes, all surrounded by a stone wall, and all of them having had a door or opening to the east. On the summit of the Side-hill, and nearly opposite to Carby, on the north side of the Liddal, there is another strong encampment, nearly of a square form. It is 300 feet in diameter. The wall or rampart is entirely of earth, and about 18 feet high. This camp has none of the interior circles of the former. On the farm of Flight, and near to the castle of Clintwood, there are two camps at a little distance from each other; the one round, and fortified with a stone wall about 100 feet diameter; and the other square, about 168 feet in length, with two ramparts of earth.

Picts Works.—There are a great many *round-about*s in the parish, commonly called Picts Works. They are all circular, and strongly fortified by a wall, composed of large stones. They are frequently found, the one at a little distance from, and opposite to, the other. There are two nigh Heeds-house, two on the farm of Shaws, one on Toftholm, one on Foulshiels, one on Cocklaw, one on Blackburn, and one on Sorbytrees. On the farm of Millburn there is a small circle enclosed by nine stones, which seems to have been a Druidical temple. Tradition says Lord Soules was burnt there. The hill is called Nine-Stone Ridge.

Cairns, &c.—There are many cairns in different places. The most remarkable of these is on the farm of Whisgills. The quantity of stones is immense, and they are mostly of a very large size. Near these, there is a large stone set on end, about 5 feet high, called the standing-stone. This cairn is in the middle of an extensive and deep moss. It can be approached on horseback only on one side, and that with much difficulty. There is not a stone to be seen near it. At Milnholm there is a cross of one stone, 8 feet four inches high, set in a base 1 foot 8 inches. This is a piece of great antiquity. A sword 4 feet long is cut out on the south side of the cross, and immediately above several letters.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | | |
|--|---|------|-----|
| Amount in 1801, | - | 1781 | |
| 1811, | - | 1887 | |
| 1821, | - | 2636 | |
| 1831, | - | 2227 | |
| Number of families in 1831, | - | - | 461 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 194 |
| in trade, handicraft, or manufactures, | - | - | 116 |

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The rents of the parish arise chiefly from sheep, black-cattle and horses, and from tillage.

Some farmers bring a considerable number of black-cattle from the markets of Falkirk and Doune. They are supported during the winter by the foggage and coarse hay, and sold generally towards the end of summer. Those tried in the country are principally the Ayrshire and Dutch kind. The butter which is made, even on the coarsest pasture, is not excelled by any in Britain. It is commonly observed, that the coarser the pasture is, the butter is the better and the richer. Even the mossy ground, though in appearance barren, is of great use both for black-cattle and sheep. The plant, called the *moss*, rises before any other in the spring, affords excellent nourishment, and is carefully sought after by the flocks. In these coarse lands, there is a constant and regular succession of different species of grass, which rise in their respective seasons throughout the year.

Soil, Produce, and Cultivation.—The arable land at present in tillage lies chiefly on the banks of the rivers. Many hundred acres, formerly in tillage, have been thrown into pasture on account of the high prices of sheep and wool. The soil of the holm land is excellent. It is sometimes of a light, but most frequently of a very deep and fine loam, and, where it is properly cultivated, it produces exceeding good crops. Wheat has been sown, and turned out very well. The ordinary crops are barley, pease, oats, and potatoes. Turnips have been introduced to a great extent, and succeed very well.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is a weekly market at Castletown, which has been in existence for the last two years.

Fairs.—There are 2 fairs at Castletown annually for the sale of sheep.

The Eskdale and Liddesdale Farmers' Association, under the patronage of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, meet alternately at Castletown and Langholm, when prizes are awarded to the farmers producing the best stock.

Church, &c.—The church was built in 1808. It is in excellent condition, and may accommodate a congregation of 700 or 800. It is situated at the junction of the Liddal and Hermitage, in a central situation, and conveniently for the population, as far, at least, as one church can be so, in so extensive a parish. The

manse was put in complete repair, on the entrance of the present incumbent in 1822, and the offices and garden are in admirable condition. At least one-half of the glebe is arable, and the other half pasture and meadow. It is from 20 to 25 acres in extent. The stipend is 17 chalders.

Education.—There are 4 parochial schools in the parish, one principal and three auxiliary. The instruction given at the parochial schools is in the usual branches. The salaries of the four masters amount to L. 51, 6s. 6d. of which the principal teacher has L. 30, and the remaining sum of L. 21, 6s. 6d. is divided equally among the three auxiliary teachers. The fees of the four schools amount to L. 72 a year. There are no other emoluments.

There are also 2 non-parochial schools, at which English grammar, writing, and arithmetic are taught.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of permanent poor on the roll is 61; of poor occasionally relieved, 30; number of children educated out of funds for the poor, 41, and the expense of their education is L. 29, 12s. 9d. Assessments began to be imposed in the year 1773, and the average yearly amount for the three years preceding 1837 was L. 381, 13s. 4d. The average amount of church-door collections for the same period was L. 21, 12s. 3d. The highest rate of relief is L. 7 per annum. The lowest, L. 1.

Libraries.—In the village of Castletown is one public subscription library.

Roads.—Good carriage roads run through the parish, communicating with Jedburgh, Hawick, Langholm, and Carlisle. Two new roads have lately been constructed, one to Bew Castle, the other to Northumberland. No public carriage runs on any road in the parish.

Fuel.—The fuel used is peat, of which there is an inexhaustible fund in every part of the country, and coal, which is brought principally from Northumberland. But the lower part of the parish is chiefly supplied from the collieries in Canonby, belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

Villages.—The village of Castletown was commenced in 1793, and now contains upwards of 1000 inhabitants. The houses and gardens are held on lease of ninety-nine years, from the Duke; but the land attached to them, and the right of common are understood to be held on lease of nine years. The village consists of two principal streets running parallel to each other, and bearing

the names of the two rivers Liddal and Hermitage. Hermitage Street is nearly half a mile in length. Castletown has three hiring days, the first held in April, the second in May, and the third in November.

October 1839.

PARISH OF MOREBATTLE AND MOW.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. WALTER MORISON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE origin of the name, Morebattle, is not certainly known. In the most ancient records it is written *Merbotle* and *Merebotle*, and the most probable supposition is, that it is a compound of the Saxon words, *Mer* or *Mere*, a marsh or loch, and *Botl*, a hamlet or village, thus signifying the village on the *loch* or *marsh*. This derivation is not supported by present appearances, but there is reason to believe that it was sufficiently appropriate at an earlier period. The vale of the Kale, (on an eminence on the south side of which the village of Morebattle stands,) for an extent of upwards of two miles in length, and nearly one in breadth, exhibits obvious indications of having been at one time under water, and of having formed a loch or marsh which has been drained by the waters of the Kale, (which flowed through it,) gradually deepening their outlet through the barrier of rising grounds at its lower end. Another conjecture concerning the origin of the name is that it signifies the village on the *moor*. It is found sometimes written *Muirbatle* and *Moorbattle*. But this spelling never occurs in any of the earlier writings. Nor is such a derivation peculiarly applicable either to the present or former locality, at least not more so than to the majority perhaps of the villages of Scotland. Besides, it is liable to the objection of making the name partly Scottish and partly Saxon. Of the name of the other parish, *Mow*, (which lies on the upper part of Beaumont water, and is the highest portion of the united parish,) anciently written, *Mol* and *Moll*, the only derivation which has been proposed, is from the British *Moel*, which signifies bare, bold, also

a naked hill, a conical hill, &c. a derivation not inconsistent with the character of the district.

Extent and Boundaries.—The greatest length is in the direction of nearly north and south, and is about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The greatest breadth is from east to west, and is about 6 miles. The mean breadth may be about 4 miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Yetholm and Linton; on the east, by part of the parish of Yetholm, and by Northumberland; on the west, by Hownam, Eckford, and Linton; and on the south, by Northumberland and Hownam.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish extends to the summit of the Cheviot range, and, with the exception of a small portion of the north and west sides, consists almost entirely of hills and the intervening vallies. It presents not, however, that bleak and barren aspect which generally characterizes a mountainous district. The hills are verdant and beautiful, the low grounds are under culture, as also the sides of several of the hills to a considerable height, and some of them to their very summits. The principal vales are those of the Kale and Beaumont, neither of them of very great breadth, but extending in length, the former about four, and the latter about six miles. The principal hills are the Cheviot, (part of which is in this parish); the Curr is next to it in locality and also in height;—the Schell, Whitelaw, Percy hill, Woodside hill, and Clifton hill, a beautiful hill rising from the east side of the Beaumont in the form of a dome. Between the Beaumont and the Kale, Swindon hill, Belford hill, and the Grubit hills; and on the west of the Kale, Gateshaw hill and Morebattle hill. They vary in height from 500 feet to upwards of 2000. From the Cheviot hills the view is grand and extensive, and in the summer season attracts frequent parties of visitors from both sides of the border. The surrounding counties of Northumberland, Berwick, and Roxburgh, lie extended below as on a map. On the east, the view is lost in the German Ocean, and on the south and west it is confined by the midland mountainous tract, which stretches from Westmoreland to the sources of the Clyde and the Tweed. The prospect from the Grubit hills, though more limited, is uncommonly fine;—looking down on the beautiful vales of the Kale and the Beaumont lying at their base, and containing within their limits the pleasant villages of Yetholm and Morebattle, the Primside and Linton lochs, the romantic church of Linton, the wooded villas of Marlfield and Clifton Park, the ruins of Cessford

Castle, famed in Border story, the Tower of Corbet House, also connected with the border feuds, and many cheerful farm-houses, with their adjacent cottages; it embraces in the further distance on the one side, the loftier range of the Cheviot, and on the other, the fertile districts of Merse and Teviotdale, studded with gentlemen's seats, the rich vale of the Teviot, the wooded course of the Tweed, the picturesque Eildons, with their triple summit, Hume Castle, Smailholm's rocky tower, the Waterloo monument on Pinnelheugh, with numerous other attractive and interesting objects; and in the back ground is terminated by the distant hills of Lammermuir and Selkirkshire. There is a great scarcity of wood in the parish, which would very much improve the scenery and also the climate. A sufficient extent of ground might be laid out in plantations without materially encroaching on land otherwise valuable, and what might be taken up for this purpose would be more than compensated by the increased value of the remainder. Many patches are everywhere to be found, at present, nearly waste, which might thus be rendered both ornamental and profitable. Some of the proprietors have, within the last thirty years, turned their attention to improvements of this kind, but not generally, nor to any thing like the extent that is required.

Climate, Diseases, and Soil.—The climate is dry and healthy. In the lower part of the parish it is mild and temperate, but in the higher districts the winters are severe and stormy. The spring is liable to be interrupted by cold chilly winds, from the neighbouring Cheviots proving injurious to the fruit blossoms and the more delicate vegetation. Fruit is here, therefore, an uncertain crop, and not much cultivated. In spring and autumn, fogs and hoar frosts from Linton loch on the east, and a marshy ground on the north-west, often sit down on the valley or basin of the Kale, and frequently injure the crops, especially of potatoes and wheat, in the valley, and also to a certain height sometimes very distinctly marked, on the adjacent rising grounds. Harvest commonly commences towards the middle of August. The inhabitants, in general, enjoy good health. There is no disease to which they are particularly liable. Agues have entirely disappeared. Epidemics are uncommon. Typhus fever seldom appears, and when it has occasionally been imported has never spread to any great extent. Only five or six cases of small-pox have occurred within these last twenty years. Scarlet fever is perhaps the most fatal disease which now visits the district. Cholera never entered the parish. When

prevalent in the country, every precautionary measure was adopted for keeping it out. The soil is in general light, and such as is well adapted to the turnip husbandry.

Hydrography.—The only lochs are, Primside or Yetholm Loch, partly in this parish, and partly in Yetholm; and Linton Loch, partly in this parish and partly in Linton.* The principal rivulets are the two beautiful streams of the Kale and the Beaumont. Both of them rise in the Cheviot range. The Kale runs from south to north, until it nearly reaches the village of Morebattle, where it suddenly turns to the west, and after a further course of several miles, joins the Teviot about five miles above its junction with the Tweed at Kelso. The Beaumont, continuing its northerly direction, enters Northumberland, where it falls into the Till, another tributary of the Tweed. Their pure crystal waters flowing over fine pebbled beds, in continually recurring currents and pools, and between fine grassy banks, abound in excellent trout, and are well adapted for angling. In the end of autumn the salmon from the Teviot and Tweed ascend the Kale for the purpose of spawning, when they are killed in great numbers during the evenings and nights by torch light. Frequent attempts have been made to put a stop to this illegal practice, but hitherto with little success. No salmon enter the Beaumont, being prevented by a dam near to its mouth. A similar dam has lately been erected across the Kale, near to the Teviot, for the purposes of machinery, which will probably have the effect of also preventing, or at least, of greatly obstructing the passage of the fish, and of diminishing their numbers.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The number of heritors is 11, and in the order of the value of their properties they are, the Duke of Roxburgh, patron of the parish, and proprietor of the greater part of the lands on Beaumont water; the Marquis of Tweeddale, to whom the barony of Morebattle belongs; Sir George Warrender of Whitton; Mr Pringle of Clifton; Mr Ker of Gateshaw, the only resident heritor, and in the superior attention to ornamental improvement on whose estate the advantages of residence are to be seen; Sir John Scott Douglas of Belford; the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; Mr Oliver of Lochside; Mr Wilson of Otterburn; Mr Turnbull of Heavyside; and Mr Darling of Temple Hall.

* For which see the Statistical Accounts of Yetholm and Linton.

Antiquities.—Amongst the hills are to be seen some of these circular rows of stones, called *Trysting Stones*, the origin and design of which are uncertain. On some of the heights there are traces of ancient encampments, most probably British, the most distinct of which are on the two adjacent summits of Morebattle Hill. Following apparently the figure of the heights, the larger is of an oval, and the smaller of a circular form. Of various towers or forts, often mentioned in the ancient border records, only two now remain, those of Whitton and Corbet House. The former is on the estate of Sir George Warrender, and is nearly in ruins. It was battered down by the Earl of Surrey in an inroad into Scotland in the reign of Henry VIII. Corbet House tower belongs to Mr Ker of Gateshaw. Between twenty and thirty years ago, it was repaired and renewed by the late Sir Charles Ker. In 1522, it was burnt by the English, who then ravaged the banks of the Kale and Beaumont in retaliation of a plundering expedition of the Scots into Northumberland, of which Launcelot Ker of Gateshaw had been one of the leaders.

Eminent Men.—No names of peculiar eminence occur. But under this head we may mention that Grubit, formerly the estate of Sir William Bennet, and from which he took his title, is situated in this parish, and adjoining to it is Wideopen, the occasional residence of his friend, the author of the Seasons, and at that time the property of the poet's maternal uncle. Of Thomson's residence here, several traditionary anecdotes are still preserved in the neighbourhood. (See the Statistical Account of the adjoining parish of Eckford.)

Parochial Registers.—The session records commence in 1726. There is a gap from 1738 to 1771, and again from 1777 to 1803, from which date they have been regularly kept. The register of births and baptisms commences also in 1726. In it, too, a blank occurs, from 1739 to 1760. After this, it continues, without farther interruption, to the present time. No registers are kept of marriages, and deaths, or funerals. A small sum is paid to the session funds by parties giving in their names for the publication of bans. The entries of these sums in the session accounts is a sort of register of proclamations, the entries of the mortcloth dues form a similar register of funerals.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was 789. In the last Statistical Account, it is stated as nearly the same. By the last census of

1831, it was 1050. After the commencement of the modern improvements in agriculture, it rapidly advanced. For the last twenty years it has been nearly stationary. The population is entirely employed in agriculture, or in trades dependent upon it.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Number of families in the parish in 1881, | - | - | - | 210 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 112 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | | | | 31 |

Character, Habits, &c. of the People.—They are in general sober and industrious, of simple manners, and of moral and religious habits. Many of them have a taste for reading, and are well informed and intelligent. There are three public-houses in the parish, all in the village of Morebattle, and ale and spirits are also sold at a toll-house in the neighbourhood. This is perhaps a greater number than the public accommodation requires. Smuggling by carrying spirits across the border into England at one time prevailed to a great extent, but it has now, for several years past, happily been entirely suppressed. There is neither lawyer nor medical practitioner in the parish. The heritors are subscribers to the Kelso Dispensary, where the poor receive advice and medicines gratis, and in cases where they cannot be taken to Kelso, a surgeon from the institution, when requested, visits them at their own houses. The farm-houses are, very different from what they formerly were, large, commodious, and elegant. But there is still great room for improvement in the houses of the hinds and cottagers.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The higher part of the parish is mostly in pasture. The lower is under tillage, and the soil being that which is suited to the turnip husbandry, the system of farming is the mixed, partly corn, and partly stock. The grains chiefly raised are barley and oats; wheat, too, but not to a great extent; beans or pease seldom. The prevailing rotation is what is called the five-shift, in which case the land lies two years in grass, and sometimes the four-shift, when it lies only one. The chief manures employed are the dung produced on the farm,—lime, which is brought from a distance of seventeen miles, at the rate of about 10s. the one horse cart,—and of late years, with much success, bone dust. The great proportion of the turnips are eaten on the ground with sheep, and when the crop is good, this is a sufficient manuring for the remaining years of the rotation. Without this in a district where there is no command of dung, tillage could not be carried to near-

ly the extent that it is. In the higher district, the sheep are of the Cheviot breed; in the lower the Leicester, and in some places a cross between the two. The cattle are almost all of the short-horned or Teesdale breed.

Rents.—The rents, of course, are very various. The average of the arable lands may be from L. 1 to L. 1, 5s. per acre, and of the pasture lands from 8s. to 10s. The valued rent of the parish is L. 16,081, 14s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent between L. 11,000 and L. 12,000 Sterling.

Rate of Wages.—Day labourers, men, 1s. 6d. and 2s.; women, 10d. and 1s.; carpenters, 2s. 6d.; and masons, 3s.; tailors, 1s. 6d. with meat; shearers, men, 13s.; women, 12s. a week and their meat. The yearly wages of hinds, or, as they are called, *the conditions* of hinds, are the following, 10 bolls or 100 stones of oatmeal; 15 bushels barley; 6 bushels pease; 1200 yards of potatoes planted; a peck of lint sown, in lieu of which L. 1 is now generally allowed; L. 3 under the name of sheep siller; a cow's grass, or in lieu of it, L. 5, 10s. or L. 6; the privilege of keeping hens, or, instead of them, 10s. or 12s.; and the carriage of four two-horse carts of coals. It is customary to give them their meat during one month in harvest. They commonly keep a pig, which they feed at their own expense. Their wives shear for their houses and yards. The hinds are bound to keep a servant woman called a *bondager*, at least during the summer half-year, for working on the farm at day's wages, commonly 10d. They generally complain of this as a hardship, alleging that what they receive for their servant's work will not do more than pay their half-year's wages, and that they have to give them victuals for nothing.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages and Markets.—There were formerly several considerable villages, of which scarcely any vestiges remain. Morebattle is now the only village in the parish, containing about 300 inhabitants. The ground on which it is built is held of the Marquis of Tweeddale, the superior, on leases of nineteen times nineteen years. In the former Statistical Account, the houses are stated to have been then “mostly of one storey, and covered with thatch.” A great proportion of them are now of two stories, and covered with slates. The appearance of the village is greatly injured by the slovenly custom of laying down ashes, fire-wood, and rubbish of different kinds, in front of the houses, along the sides of the street.

Were this nuisance done away, as has been frequently proposed, the striking improvement in comfort and cleanliness would soon reconcile the villagers to any restrictions to which it might subject them. There was a small common near the village, on which the rentallers, by the terms of their leases, had the right of casting turfs. About forty years ago, this was divided amongst them, with the consent of the Marquis of Tweeddale, in shares, proportioned to the amount of their rentals. It has since been all inclosed, gradually improved by manuring, trenching, forcing, &c. and now bears very good crops of potatoes, turnips, grass, and also of corn, and thus, from being a waste and useless moor, is now a considerable benefit to the village.

Means of Communication.—No stage-coach runs through the parish. There are carriers to Kelso (the market-town) three days a-week. A turnpike road passes through the village, communicating with the Kelso and Jedburgh road on the west, and leading into Northumberland on the east. The parish roads are kept in good repair. Some years ago it was proposed to establish a side post in Morebattle, but the villagers on being consulted refused it as disadvantageous. They stated that their correspondence being chiefly with Kelso, their letters are either carried free of expense by people going down, or at least for 1d. by the carriers, whereas by post they would cost 3d. or 4d. There are no fairs or markets held in the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated at the north-west extremity of the parish, being within half a-mile of the boundary on that side, and between nine and ten from that on the other. There is no other part of the parish, however, in which it could be placed more commodiously for the bulk of the population. It stands at the north side of the village of Morebattle, on a height overlooking the Kale. It affords accommodation for about 460 sitters, and if well filled, would contain 500. It was built in 1757, and is at present undergoing repairs, which, when completed, will render it comfortable and handsome. No seats are let. St Lawrence was the patron saint. A well below the churchyard, which supplies the village with water, still bears his name, corrupted into Lawrie's Well. At one period there had been a chapel at Clifton, then a village, and another at Whitton. The collections at the church doors are very trifling. The number of heads of families communicants on the veto roll, made up at the last communion, is 50. The manse was built in 1830. The accommodation is large, but

the work being very ill executed, it has already required considerable repairs. The stipend, as modified at the last augmentation, in 1820, is 16 chalders, half barley, half oatmeal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe consists of about 11 acres of very good land. The minister had also a right to a number of carriages of coals from the tenants, the greater part of which have fallen into disuse. He had also the right of casting turfs on the farm of Morebattle Braes. But the ground being brought under tillage, he agreed to take in lieu of this privilege the carriage of 14 bolls of coals yearly, which, however, for a long time past, he has never received. There is one Dissenting-meeting house in the parish, which belongs to the United Secession. It stood originally at Gateshaw, which was the first settlement of the Secession in the south of Scotland. Their first minister, Mr Hunter, was ordained in 1739. It was some years before a place of worship was built, during which time the congregation assembled summer and winter on Gateshaw Brae, and the minister preached to them from a tent. About sixty years ago, the meeting-house and manse were removed to Morebattle, where they still continue. The minister has a good house and garden, a yearly stipend, I believe, of L. 110, and an allowance for sacramental expenses.

Education.—There are two parochial schools—the first in Morebattle, attended on an average by 100 scholars. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary, L. 8 as heritors' clerk, and a trifle as session-clerk. The amount of his fees may be about L. 30. A new school-house has lately been built, without exception, the finest in the county. The schoolmaster's house is of two storeys, containing four rooms, kitchen, and back kitchen, besides garret apartments. The second-school is at Mowhaugh, on Beaumont Water. It was established about fifteen years ago. The teacher has a house and garden, and L. 17 of salary, with the school fees. The branches taught at both schools are, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, mathematics, Latin. There is also in the village of Morebattle a private school, attended by about 30 scholars. There are no persons above fifteen years of age who cannot read, and few, if any, who cannot write.

Literature.—A library was established in the parish about forty years ago, which now contains between 600 and 700 volumes. The price of a share is L. 1, 1s. and the yearly contribution is

3s. 6d. The books, which are chiefly in general literature, are chosen by the members at a general annual meeting.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of paupers at present on the roll is 45. The sum annually expended for their support is about L. 280. It is derived from assessments on the heritors, and the interest of L. 1500 bequeathed to the parish by a Mr More, a native of the place, who went out to India, where he died. The terms of the destination are, “for the support, maintenance, and education of real poor and destitute orphans.” The heritors throw it into the general poor’s fund. They alimnt, of course, the poor orphans, and also pay their school fees.

Fuel.—One of the greatest disadvantages under which the district labours is the distance from coals, (about seventeen and eighteen miles,) which are almost the only fuel used, or which can be procured.

October 1839.

UNITED PARISHES OF STITCHELL AND HUME.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. PETER BUCHANAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THE parish of Stitchell lies in the county of Roxburgh,—that of Hume in Berwickshire. The united parishes are betwixt 5 and 6 miles in length from north to south, and betwixt 3 and 4 in breadth from east to west. The boundaries on the north are the parishes of Gordon and Greenlaw; on the south, the parishes of Kelso, Nenthorn, and Ednam; on the east, Eccles; on the west, Nenthorn and Earlston.

II—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—These have been kept for both parishes since the year 1640.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners are, Sir John Prin-

gle, Bart. of Stitchell; Sir Hugh Purves Campbell Hume, Bart.; and Mr Baillie of Mellerstain.

Mansions.—The chief mansion in the parish is that of Stitchell House, belonging to Sir John Pringle.

Antiquities, &c.—The Castle of Hume, which stands in the parish, was for ages a noted defence to its neighbourhood, during the contentions and wars on the borders. The Earls of Home resided in it. Our southern neighbours often besieged it. It was surrendered to the Duke of Somerset in the year 1547, and retaken in the year 1549. It is said that Oliver Cromwell, when at Haddington, sent a summons to the Governor, ordering him to surrender the castle; but that the then Governor returned for answer, that "*He Willie Wastle*, stood firm in his castle, and that all the dogs of his town should not drive Willie Wastle down." Oliver Cromwell, however, after considerable difficulties, made himself master of it, and in a great measure demolished it. There is a tradition generally believed in the country, that when King James II. went to besiege the Castle of Roxburgh, he left his Queen in Hume Castle; that one day when she was upon the road to visit her royal husband, she was met about half a mile east of Stitchell House, by a messenger, with the melancholy account of his Majesty's being killed by the bursting of a cannon. This sad news brought on her pains, and she was immediately delivered of a child, upon a hill, ever since called Queen's Cairn.*

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| Amount of the population of the united parishes in 1831, | - | 834 |
| 1835, | - | 850 |
| Number of families in the parish in 1831, | - | 186 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | 129 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | 23 | |

The number of illegitimate births in the course of the last three years is 7.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of standard imperial acres in the united parishes is 5478. Almost all are in tillage.

The real rental of the parish is about L. 8000 per annum.

A considerable part of the land is of a strong soil, and bears good crops. The lands are well enclosed.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—Number of families connected with the Established Church, 101; of Dissenting or Seceding families,

* Old Statistical Account.

about 80. Stipend, 15 chalders; glebe, 11 acres in extent; value, L. 28; manse built in 1830, and in excellent condition. The church stands in the village of Stitchell, at the west end of the parish; and it is at present in excellent repair. The village of Hume is distant from it two miles.

There is a Secession church at the east end of the village of Stitchell, in connexion with which it is supposed there are about 300 individuals.

Education.—There are two parochial schools, one in each parish. The salary of the teacher in Stitchell is L. 25, and his school-fees amount to about L. 20 a year. The salary of the teacher in Hume is L. 25, and his fees may amount to L. 24 a year. Each of the teachers has from other sources about L. 2, 10s. a year.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Number of permanent poor on the roll, 17; lunatics, 1; of poor occasionally relieved, 15. Average yearly amount of church collections for the years 1835, 1836, 1837, L. 21, 6s. 5d.; of other voluntary contributions, 13s. 4d.; of assessment, L. 116, 12s. 8d. Amount distributed yearly to permanent poor, L. 79, 15s. 10d.; to the lunatic, L. 23, 10s.; to the occasional poor, L. 28, 18s. 2d.; for education of poor children, L. 7, 2s. 6d.; highest rate of relief, L. 5, 4s.; lowest rate, L. 2, 12s.

November 1839.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.*

THIS County, one of the most interesting and beautiful in Scotland, presenting a great diversity of scenery, is bounded on the south by Dumfries-shire and the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland; on the east, by Northumberland and Berwickshire; on the north, by Berwickshire; and on the west, by the shires of Edinburgh, Selkirk, and Dumfries. Its extreme length from north to south may be about 40 miles, and its extreme breadth from east to west somewhat less. It marches with England along a space of not less than about 50 miles.

"A river here, there an ideal line,
Divides the sister kingdoms."

Usually, the ridge of the mountain barrier, which separates the two countries, is the bounding-line; sometimes it is a mountain stream, at others "a dry stone dike." From its position with regard to England, this county was the scene, in former times, of many a fierce and bloody struggle between the inhabitants on either side of the border; and the whole county we find to have been at one time studded with an almost incredible number of castles, and peels, and towers, and other fortified edifices,—the crumbling remains of which are now fast disappearing before the plough and other modern agricultural improvements; though we cannot but regret the too frequent practice, (not now so common, we believe, as it was,) of pulling down these rude relics of a former and very different state of things, and using them in the erection of stone fences and farm-buildings. Roman camps, also, and British forts, are numerous throughout the county,—evidences, perhaps, of its ancient importance; and the great middle Roman road into North Britain, usually denominated Watling Street, crosses the county, in nearly a north and south direction, and in some places, as in the wilder and less cultivated districts of Hounam and Oxnam, is still distinctly visible.

Topographical Appearances.—Though the ancient division of

* Drawn up by the Rev. John Baird, Yetholm.

Tweeddale is scarcely understood, we believe, to include any portion of Roxburghshire, yet that portion of the county watered by the lordly Tweed may be regarded as possessing certain features distinguishing it from the rest of Teviotdale, the principal division of the county. It contains no extensive tracts of uncultivated pasture lands, no ranges of hills,—the classical and singularly beautiful Eildon hills being almost the only exception. Though undulating in its outline, and rising often to a considerable elevation, yet, compared with the rest of the county, it may be described as almost a level district, and almost the whole of it has been brought under the dominion of the plough. Especially in the neighbourhood of the river, it is richly wooded. The immediate banks of the Tweed are generally precipitous, on one side at least, sometimes on both,—so that the river, flowing in a deep bed, is frequently invisible from the public roads, and many of its most striking beauties are known, therefore, only to those who are familiar with the district. Everywhere, however, from the higher grounds the views of the river and of a richly wooded and highly cultivated country, are exceedingly fine. The tributaries of the Tweed within the county, are the Gala, on the borders between Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire, the Allan in the parish of Melrose, the Leader separating this county from Berwickshire, the Teviot and the Eden,—the former, the graceful and romantic Teviot, where, mingling with the princely Tweed, almost doubling the volume of his waters.

The Teviot, (whence the name Teviotdale given to the middle division, if not to the whole of the county, with the exception of Liddesdale,) though only a tributary of the Tweed, is the peculiar river of the county, which it nearly divides, and few districts in the kingdom can boast a river of greater beauty. Its whole course, which is about 40 miles, and all within the county, is beautiful; but we might instance, in particular, the district from Crailing to Hawick, whether seen from the one side of the river or the other; and the views are still more magnificent, when contemplated from some of the higher grounds which rise from the banks of the river. Many beautiful seats ornament its banks. The river, almost everywhere seen from the road, flows in the bottom of a spacious, open, sunny valley, the sides of which, gradually receding from the river, rise often to a considerable height; Minto Crags and Minto Kame on the one side, and the Dunian and Ruberslaw on the other, being hills of from 700 to 1400 feet in altitude. The fields are in a high state of cultivation, and the whole country is finely cloth-

ed with wood. Above Hawick, the valley in which the Teviot flows gradually contracts,—the hills generally attain a greater elevation,—its banks possess less cultivation, and it speedily assumes the character of a pleasing, pastoral district. The several tributaries of the Teviot, the Ale, and the Borthwick waters, on the north side of the river; the Kale, the Oxnam, the Jed, the Rule, the Slitridge, and the Allan waters on the south side,—all flow through valleys of great natural beauty, often much contracted in breadth, and presenting fine specimens of bold rocky scenery. They often rival in beauty the vale of the Teviot itself, though they possess a very different character of beauty.

The whole of what may properly be denominated Teviotdale, the district watered by the Teviot and its tributaries, may be described as hilly, and by far the greater part of it pastoral. On the banks of the Teviot and other streams, and wherever the ground is not too steep for the plough, the land is in cultivation and often well wooded. All the intermediate country between these intersecting valleys is a wilderness of beautiful green and generally rounded hills :

“ The pastures of the wilderness ;
The little hills rejoice on every side.
The pastures are clothed with flocks ;
The valleys also are covered over with corn ;
They shout for joy, they also sing.”

The district all along the borders between the two kingdoms is perhaps the most mountainous portion of the county. The hills, however, are generally smooth, green, and pastoral, with many a pretty glen and sparkling stream between,—though it must be confessed, that, in some places, as in the neighbourhood of the Carter, moors as cold, bleak, wet, and barren exist, as almost any other part of Scotland can produce.

Liddesdale, or the parish of Castleton, the southern division, including about a sixth part of the county, is separated from Teviotdale by a range of lofty hills, and the only entrances to it from the latter are by roads almost as alpine as can be travelled in the Highlands itself. It is essentially a pastoral district; the only cultivation being on the banks of the Liddel and Hermitage waters, which intersect it from nearly north to south. There is generally a great deficiency of wood. The two vales of the Liddel and Hermitage, in which almost the whole population reside, are bounded by hills of moderate height, green in summer, brown and moorish-looking in autumn. Towards the sources of the streams, the coun-

try is wild and hilly ; but as you descend to the village of Castle-ton, especially from the confluence of the Hermitage with the Liddel, it is extremely pretty, with well grown plantations and cultivated fields. The climate of Liddesdale is wet, though said to be milder in winter and spring than that of the rest of the county. The soil is complained of as weak, not able to bring the crops to perfection, and the wetness of the climate in summer and autumn greatly retards the ripening and in-gathering of the grain. These are alleged as reasons for less cultivation prevailing in this than in many similar districts of the county, though in this, there are at the same time great apparent facilities for improvement,—abundance of lime on almost every farm, with coals at no immoderate distance, an uninterrupted descent for draining operations, a moderate rent, we presume,—and the Duke of Buccleuch, one of the best landlords in the kingdom, is the Lord of Liddesdale.

The only stream, of any importance, in the county, which has not been already noticed, is the Bowmont water, which has its source in the Cheviot range, and which, after a course of ten miles through a diversified and beautiful, but rather naked valley within the county, enters England, and after uniting with the College and the Till, finally loses its waters in those of the Tweed.

Agriculture.—It appears that not more than about one-third of the whole county is in tillage, the remaining two-thirds being in permanent hill-pasture and moor, though of this last there is comparatively little, with a small, yet not disproportionate part, under wood. Everywhere, soil and climate being at all favourable, (and these are daily ameliorating by the growth of young plantations,) fresh land, and land which has not been in tillage for many years, is brought into cultivation, and in all such cases thoroughly improved ; and every year is adding more or less to the quantity of land in tillage in such situations, so that there is now as great a breadth of land under cultivation, and in a far superior condition, as there was during any period of last war. The number of acres under the plough at present, compared with what there was about the end of last century, it would be important and interesting to know, but correct information is wanting. In some even of the finer districts of the county, there is now fully one-third, in others, one-half more land under cultivation, than there was at the former period referred to ; and over the whole county, it may be stated, we believe, without any exaggeration, that there is now fully a third more land under the plough, than there was little more than

forty years ago. "Towards the close of last century," says an intelligent observer, well acquainted with the agriculture of Scotland, "some of the finest arable portions of the county were altogether unenclosed, and, excepting the better descriptions of land upon the immediate vicinity of its rivers, exhibited the dominion of the plough only in irregular and detached patches,—the intermediate portions being very generally devoted to grazing."* He mentions, with regard to what he describes as the finest district of the county, the parishes in the immediate vicinity of Kelso, including an extent of 42,000 acres,—that in 1790, there might be of these 21,000 acres under cultivation, whereas in 1837 there were nearly 35,000; that the value of the produce of the former might be L. 84,600, of the latter, L. 172,400; and he calculates the produce of each acre as one-fourth more. If we include the produce of farms, in stock as well as in corn, the productiveness of the land has been increased in a much larger proportion. For it is a remarkable fact, that in a farm, we will suppose of 1800 acres, which, towards the close of last century, was devoted almost entirely to sheep pasture, there may be now from 500 to 600 acres in regular rotation of corn crops, while the number of sheep kept upon the farm has been in no degree diminished, and these are kept and fed in a far superior manner. The number of sheep at the close of last century compared with that at the present time, in the finest district of the county, the same gentleman whom I have quoted above, calculates as about three to four, and the weight in the present time cannot be taken, he thinks, at much less than double that of the former period. The great improvements in agriculture during the last forty or fifty years, and the immensely increased productiveness of the soil, have been owing principally to the introduction of the drill turnip husbandry, now universally adopted in the county, "the judicious intermixture of the feeding and grazing of live stock with arable culture," the use of foreign manures, as lime and bone dust, and an improved system of draining. The rental of land in the county has uniformly kept pace with, if it has not been generally in advance of, its increased value. The rents of farms, since the end of last century, have been increased in most instances about a half, in not a few much more than a half, and in

* See Mr Dudgeon's "Essay on the Agriculture of Scotland," in the first volume of the Journal of the English Agricultural Society, 1839. See also the New Statistical Accounts of the parishes of Melrose, Maxton, St Boswell's, Linton, Yetholm, Hounam, Crailing, &c.

none, perhaps, less than a third. Lands, also, sold of late years, have brought double, treble, and even four times the sum paid for them, forty or fifty years ago.

The farmers in this county are generally men of capital and intelligence. Tillage farms may average from 400 to 600 acres; sheep or pastoral farms from 1000 to 3000; and farms partly arable and partly in permanent sheep pasture, of which description there is a large proportion in the county, from 600 to 1400 acres; though there are many farms, of course, of smaller as well as of much larger extent. The leases are generally for nineteen or twenty-one years, and the rents vary, of course, according to soil, climate, situation, and facilities of markets. Probably more than one-half of the arable land of the county is upwards of 250 feet above the level of the sea, and from that to 600 and even 800 feet. Much of the land in elevated situations, especially in our trap districts, is of the best quality, but the climate is cold and exposed. How much more land of this description, than is at present in tillage, and of moss and moorland in low districts, might be brought into cultivation, with profit and advantage to the farmer, a few more years may determine: though it must at the same time be admitted, that, in some situations, lands of the description now mentioned, after having been in cultivation, have been again restored to pasture, their continued culture being found not remunerating, the climate being bad, or more probably, the expenses attending a thorough system of improvement being too formidable to be incurred under unfavourable circumstances. On the larger farms, the fields or enclosures contain generally from twenty to forty acres, and these, in the older cultivated districts, are usually fenced with thorn hedges interspersed with trees, which give an appearance of clothing and richness to the landscape, while the newer enclosures are more generally fenced with dry stone dikes, *i. e.* walls of from four to five feet in height, built without mortar. The soils in different districts, of course, vary very much, and these may be noticed more particularly when we speak of the geology of the county.

The same spirit of improvement which has, of late years, pervaded more or less the whole country, has extended also to this district, and Roxburghshire can boast of not a few enterprising and intelligent farmers. It is yet to be regretted, however, that few comparatively have hitherto practised to any extent the more recent improvements or discoveries, such as the system of frequent

or furrow draining, subsoil and trench-ploughing, which a few years experience, we have little doubt, will pronounce to be indispensable for the right management of land. These improvements, however, are extending, and equal attention has also, of late years, been shown to improving the breed of cattle and sheep.

Farming is now practised more as a science than formerly; and it were certainly desirable that our young men, destined to be farmers on a large scale, should receive a suitable education for such profession. An acquaintance with the various branches of natural history, geology, botany, and with natural philosophy and chemistry especially, ought to be regarded as essential for the successful prosecution of agriculture in the present day, and an increasing conviction begins to prevail of the great utility of such knowledge.

Among the recent improvements connected with the agriculture of the county, we are glad to notice, and we wish we could do so in terms of stronger approbation, that of late years in all new erections of farm-buildings, somewhat more attention has been shown to the comforts of that quiet and industrious class of men, the hinds or farm-servants, who in this county, different in this respect from many others, are generally married men with families, residing in separate dwelling-houses, collected together as a little hamlet, situated at a short distance from the farm-house and offices, as the other farm-buildings are generally called. The houses of these men, formerly often wretched hovels, in many instances worse than those appropriated to the cattle, are now in many new erections made larger, warmer, and are provided occasionally with sleeping apartments above. The other agricultural labourers, residing generally in towns and villages, are most frequently employed by the piece, or according to the measurement of work done, and their gains, whether they are employed by the day or the piece, have been of late on the advance, being now from 10s. 6d. to 12s. per week.

It is no unfrequent subject of regret and complaint, that proprietors in general are so careless and short-sighted in giving encouragement to tenants desirous to improve their farms, though tenants themselves, we have no doubt, may frequently be equally to blame in this. Improvements executed solely at the expense of the tenant are generally made to last only a limited period, and are consequently not permanent. They benefit the land for the time, and remunerate the farmer, but at the end of the lease, the farm is in a condition lit-

tle, if at all, superior to what it was in, at the commencement, and the improvements must be in a great measure renewed. A thorough and permanent improvement of land can only be made at a very considerable cost; and it would be unreasonable to expect that a tenant, who has only a temporary interest in the lands he occupies, should attempt improvements which are ultimately so much more beneficial to the landlord than himself; for at the expiry of his lease, such farm will let at a greatly increased rent, and another may reap the benefit of his improvements. But in few cases, have tenants capital adequate to such an undertaking. Were proprietors, on the other hand, to execute such improvements themselves, or join with their tenants in the execution of them, binding them even in their leases to make such improvements as would be for the permanent benefit of the land, they would greatly increase the value, and it may be even the security of their properties; and there is no wise tenant but would be willing to pay L. 6 or L. 7 per cent. during his lease for all money thus expended by proprietors; while, at the termination of the leases of such improved farms, they would bring greatly increased rents; and in the present day, when agricultural pursuits are so much in fashion, and so many competitors start for every farm that is in the market, proprietors can be at no loss in the selection of suitable tenants, men of capital, education, and enterprize. If farms were generally improved, as we have seen some farms improved, there can be no doubt, that a large proportion, probably two-thirds of the whole tillage land of Scotland, would be made to yield one-third more than its present produce, and deducting from the value of this third additional produce, the interest of money advanced on improvement, the farmer would still be enabled to dispose of the produce of his farm at a reduction of fully a fourth of the present prices; and not only so, but as agricultural science is but in its infancy, by the increased countenance and aid of our aristocracy and large landed proprietors, an impulse would be given to improvement, new discoveries would be made in the way of manures, the treatment of soils, the cure of those diseases to which both plants and animals are liable, the implements employed in culture, and in a generally improved mode of management; waste land might be reclaimed; the researches of the scientific would be enlisted in the service of the agriculturist; and by such means, there is no improbability, that corn and the other produce of farms might be raised and sold in this country at one-half, certainly at one-third

less than the present prices; the country would be able to support its whole population without assistance from foreign countries, while both the profits of the farmer and the rents of the land would remain undiminished or be advanced. It is generally calculated, that land of an average quality, when thoroughly improved, will yield a return of from 10 to 12 bushels per acre more than before. If the produce before improvement, upon an average of years, was 4 bolls per acre, after improvement, the produce will be 6 bolls, the increase in this instance being one-half of the whole former produce. The proportion of this additional increase, required to pay a large per-centage on capital laid out in improving, being, according to circumstances, from a-fourth to a-sixth of the whole, there are still left from 6 to 10 bushels as clear disposable gain. The rapidly increasing population of the country demands that more food shall be raised, or in some other way provided, without any additional cost to the consumer: an increasing number of labourers also demands employment. And these demands may be met by a general adoption of agricultural improvement; and this is a subject, we think, which merits, much more than it has received, the attention of proprietors in general.

Geology.—There are four different formations of rocks in the county,—the greywacke, the coal formation, the red sandstone, and the trap. The position and space occupied by these formations would be better understood by the simple inspection of a coloured geological map than they can be by any description. The greywacke and greywacke slate, which we shall first notice, occupy the whole western portion—almost the western half—of the county, with the exception of Liddesdale. The line separating this rock from the red sandstone, which occupies the middle and northern part of the county, might be traced from nearly the north-east corner of the parish of Melrose in a southern direction, skirting the base of the Eildon hills, thence by the east of the village of Bowden, through Hassendean on the banks of the Teviot, to the south of Hobkirk, whence it curves to the east by Southdean, Old Jedburgh and Oxnam; a little beyond which, it disappears, or is seen only in a few detached spots left uncovered by the sandstone. All to the south of the line drawn from Hobkirk to Southdean, till you reach the borders of Castleton parish, is of the same rock. From Southdean to Oxnam, the greywacke occupies only a narrow space of a few miles in breadth, the red sandstone covering it on the north and west, the trap rocks occupying nearly all to the

south and east. The greywacke of Roxburghshire presents the same general characters possessed by this rock in other districts. The strata are generally vertical or nearly so, but they vary from vertical to an inclination of 30° . They are found most usually to dip to the south-east like the other stratified rocks of the county, though they are also observed not unfrequently dipping to the north-east, and even north-west. The whole of the large district occupied by this rock is hilly; but some of the higher peaked and more abrupt hills are of trap and porphyry.

The range of hills, separating the parish of Castleton from the rest of the county, is of greywacke; but as you descend into Liddesdale, you find resting on the southern slope of these hills, the rocks of the coal formation, which thenceforth occupy the whole of Liddesdale. A small portion of the great Northumbrian coal-field crosses the border into Scotland on the south and east of the parish of Southdean, and occupies, probably, a third of its extent. Coal is wrought on the English side of the Carter Fell; which here forms the boundary between the two kingdoms; but none is wrought in the county of Roxburgh, though both here and in Liddesdale limestone is frequent and abundant. A still smaller portion of the coal formation is exposed at Hunthill, in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, where a trial has lately been made for coal, with some prospect of success. The strata passed through in this attempt are grey and micaceous sandstones, limestone, clay-ironstone, and shale, with thin seams of coal, and numerous vegetable impressions. These rocks seem to lie beneath a thin deposit of the red sandstone. A much larger, but much less distinct and characteristic portion of the same formation is found occupying the lower portion of the parish of Kelso, on the banks of the Tweed, part also of the parishes of Sprouston and Ednam, to the borders of the county. In the bed of the Teviot, near its confluence with the Tweed, some of the strata contain vegetable impressions in great abundance.

The next formation is the red sandstone, and we may in the meantime call it the new red sandstone, without farther, in these present remarks, giving an opinion as to the claims of this rock to belong to an older formation. It occupies all the middle and northern parts of the county, excepting those districts we have already described, as occupied by the greywacke and coal series, and it is bounded on the south and east by a line, which, for all general purposes, we may regard as stretching in nearly a straight

course, from near Southdean, by Old Jedburgh, to the northern point of the parish of Yetholm, on the borders of England: all to the south and east of this line is occupied by the great trap formation of the Cheviot. Small detached portions of the red sandstone are occasionally found considerably below the limits now assigned to it, as if it had at one time extended over a much larger space. Splendid sections of this rock may be observed on the banks of the Kale, the Oxnam, the Jed, and the Rule, as also of the Tweed and Teviot. Though the usual colour of this sandstone is red, yet it not unfrequently also occurs of a white colour, and there are many excellent quarries of both the red and white varieties, in different parts of the county. Though it frequently, therefore, is found in beds of considerable thickness, and is employed as a good substantial building stone, yet its most usual mode of occurrence is in thin and almost horizontal strata, soft, brittle, and easily decomposing. Possessing, in general, the characters of the new red, it occupies, in many situations, the place of the old red sandstone, resting immediately on the greywacke, without the interposition of the coal formation, even where this is found in the same neighbourhood. Elsewhere, however, we find it apparently covering, and in that case, therefore, nearer than the coal series. The total absence of fossil organic remains in this sandstone is a principal cause of the uncertainty which exists with regard to its relative age. Many observations, indeed, are yet wanting, before it can with any certainty be said, that all the three classes, the old red, as well as the coal, and the new red sandstones, do not exist in this part of the county.

The last class of formations in the county are the traps and porphyries; and of these, the felspar porphyry, usually of a reddish-brown colour, but varying also very much in this respect, is by far the most abundant. The whole of the Cheviot range, and indeed the whole of the district, comprehending the parishes of Yetholm, Morebattle, Hounam, and the greater part of Oxnam, are composed of this rock, as well as several of the higher hills in other parts of the county. It is also apparently the oldest of the Plutonian rocks of Roxburghshire; of more recent origin than the greywacke and the coal formation, but older than the red sandstone, fragments of this porphyry being one of the most abundant materials found in the conglomerate which forms the lowest and oldest of the sandstone strata; and we have instances also of the red sandstone, in its usual almost horizontal position, and unaltered in appearance,

resting immediately over the porphyry. There are many trap rocks in the county, greenstone, basalt, trap tuff, amygdaloid, &c. some or all of which appear to be of later origin than the felspar porphyry now described. In the red sandstone district, trap rocks are numerous and abundant, every mile, often every half, and even quarter of a mile presenting some variety of this rock, in dikes, or in some other of the various modes in which it occurs. Some of these have obviously passed upwards through the sandstone, elevating, dislocating, and indurating the strata. Again, in other situations, the sandstone seems as if it had been quietly deposited over the trap. In the coal formation of Liddesdale, also, traps occur of newer origin than the stratified rocks. One in particular presents itself on the opposite bank of the Liddel from Castleton manse, where the stratified rocks from an inclination of about 30° , are suddenly thrown up into a vertical, and even partly reversed position, and are considerably indurated.

In this hasty survey of the distribution of the rocks of the county, we have been unable to notice many interesting appearances presented by all the different formations of rocks, some of which might have thrown some light on the discussion affecting the relative age of the red sandstone of this and the neighbouring county of Berwick,—a question somewhat more difficult to determine, than it may perhaps appear to be, from these brief notices.

Soils.—Over the greywacke, the soil is generally a thin, cold, wet clay, of a grey or white colour. Where, from its situation, it is intermixed with the ingredients of other rocks, and especially where it has been improved by under-draining, and possesses the advantage of shelter, the soil seems well adapted for the growth of white crops, but still late. According to circumstances and situation, the crops in such districts are from one to three weeks later than in similar and equally elevated situations in the county, but where a different class of rocks prevails. Over the coal formation, the soil is generally weak and sandy; on the higher grounds, much intermixed with peaty matter, and therefore wet. This description is applicable chiefly to the southern districts of the county, where the coal formation covers a large extent of surface; but is not true with respect to the Kelso district, where numerous strata of indurated and shaly marls alternate with the sandstone, and all the surrounding higher grounds are of trap rocks, where shelter also abounds, and the lands have been long in cul-

tivation. Here, therefore, upon an open subsoil, the soil, especially in the lower grounds, is a deep rich sandy loam.

Over the red sandstone, the soil is of various qualities, being among the best and the worst in the county. The quality of the soil varies very much with the quality and ingredients of the sandstone, which is sometimes a loose, gritty, silicious rock, easily disintegrating, much impregnated with iron, and containing a very small proportion of clay; at other times, much finer in its texture, with a greater adhesion among its particles, and containing, with not less iron perhaps, a large proportion of clay. Over this latter description of rock, there is generally a deep rich red and rather early soil, while over the former there rests often the most worthless description of soil in the county, an unproductive sand. There is every variety, however, in the district occupied by the red sandstone, between these two descriptions of soil.

Over the trap and porphyry rocks of the county, there is generally a loose, light, warm, dry and early soil, except on haugh lands, where there is generally a deposit of deep, rich, strong clay loam. The higher trap districts afford the finest sheep pasture in the county. Of course, these remarks must be understood as applying in a very general manner to the soils of the county. For in a district like Roxburghshire, so much intersected by streams, most of which flow through all the classes of rocks described, it must be expected, that in the lower and more highly cultivated situations especially, there will be a great intermixture and combination of materials in the composition of our soils.

Roads.—The roads in the county are in general good,—we might almost use a stronger term,—and they have been much improved of late years. In the wilder districts of the county, where the roads have been more recently formed, they are better, perhaps, than in many of the older cultivated districts; probably from this cause, that more good sense is now displayed in selecting the line of road, as well as superior skill in their original construction; both which causes operate in rendering them more easily kept in repair. Coaches from Edinburgh to England pass through all the principal towns of the county; and during the bathing season, a coach travels from Hawick through Jedburgh and Kelso to Berwick and Spittal; and Kelso furnishes a daily coach for its inhabitants during the same season, as well as a coach twice a week to Berwick throughout the year.

TABLE I. Shewing Ecclesiastical State, &c.

| Parishes. | Population in 1831. | Ecclesiastical State. | | | | | Amount of parochial Ministers' Stipend. | Schools in the parish. | Par. School Salary. |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Fams. belong- to Estab. Ch. | Individuals belong. to Do. | Fams. of Dis- sent. or Seced. | Individuals belong. to Do | | | | |
| 1 Jedburgh, | 3617 | ... | ... | ... | 2463 | 19 ch. ml. & bar. | 14 | See Account | |
| 2 Lilliesleaf, | 781 | ... | 429 | ... | 344 | 16 ch. | 2 | L.25 0 0 | |
| 3 Bowden, | 1010 | 113 | 450 | 74 | ... | 15 ch. | 2 | { 30 0 0 21 0 0 | |
| 4 Melrose, | 4339 | 600 | 3400 | 300 | ... | 16 ch. | 7 | 30 0 0 | |
| 5 Wilton, | 1870 | See | Account. | ... | ... | 6 ch. L.36, &c. | 3 | 34 0 0 | |
| 6 Robertson | 730 | 112 | 626 | 19 | 104 | 14 ch. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 7 Southdean, | 839 | 112 | ... | 30 | ... | 16 ch. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 8 St Boswell's, | 701 | 118 | 615 | ... | 86 | 15 ch. | 1 | 25 0 0 | |
| 9 Maxton, | 461 | 69 | ... | 21 | ... | 14 ch. | 1 | 25 0 0 | |
| 10 Roxburgh, | 962 | 130 | ... | 70 | ... | 15 ch. | 2 | { 34 0 0 17 0 0 | |
| 11 Makerston, | 326 | 36 | ... | 20 | ... | 15 ch. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 12 Smallholm, | 628 | 100 | 220 | 27 | ... | 14 ch. | 2 | 34 0 0 | |
| 13 Linton, | 462 | 72 | ... | 12 | ... | 16 ch. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 14 Yetholm, | 1289 | ... | 888 | ... | 412 | 14 ch. | 3 | 34 0 0 | |
| 15 Crailing, | 733 | 66 | ... | 63 | ... | 13 ch. | 2 | 30 0 0 | |
| 16 Hounam, | 260 | 38 | ... | 11 | ... | 14 ch. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 17 Hobkirk, | 676 | 93 | ... | 28 | ... | 15 ch. | 2 | 31 0 0 | |
| 18 Eckford, | 1148 | 153 | ... | 69 | ... | 15 ch. | 2 | { 34 0 0 17 0 0 | |
| 19 Sprouston, | 1400 | 205 | ... | 90 | ... | 14½ ch. & L.44. | 3 | 30 0 0 | |
| 20 Ancrum, | 1454 | 160 | ... | 124 | ... | 16 ch. | 3 | 34 0 0 | |
| 21 Oxnam, | 676 | See | Account. | ... | ... | 120 bolls oatm. 87 qrs. &c. barley. | 1 | 25 0 0 | |
| 22 Ashkirk, | 565 | ... | 173 | ... | 93 | 14 ch. | 1 | 30 0 0 | |
| 23 Bedrule, | 257 | 25 | ... | 21 | ... | ... | 1 | 26 0 0 | |
| 24 Kelso, | 4939 | ... | 2631 | ... | 1881 | 21 bolls ml. 56bol bear, L.193, 2s5d | 10 | ... | |
| 25 Minto, | 481 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 34 0 0 | |
| 26 Kirktoun, | 294 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 26 0 0 | |
| 27 Hawick, | 4970 | ... | 3902 | ... | 1464 | 15 ch. and L.65. | 12 | 33 0 0 | |
| 28 Ednam, | ... | ... | 345 | ... | 240 | L. 158. | 1 | 34 0 0 | |
| 29 Cavers, | 1625 | ... | ... | ... | ... | L. 250. | 3 | { 30 0 0 12 0 0 15 0 0 | |
| 30 Castletown, | 2227 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 ch. | 6 | 51 6 6 | |
| 31 Morebattle, | 1050 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 ch. | 3 | { 34 0 0 17 0 0 25 0 0 | |
| 32 Stithell, | 834 | 101 | ... | 80 | 300 | 15 ch. | 2 | { 25 0 0 | |

ADDENDA.

1. *Jedburgh*.—The Dissenters above enumerated come not merely from this, but from nine or ten surrounding parishes.

of Parishes in the County of Roxburgh.

| | masters' Emoluments. | | Annual amount of contributions for the Poor. | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | Fees. | Total. | From assess- ment or vo- luntary contri- bution by Heritors. | From church Collections. | From Alms, Legacies, &c. | Total. |
| 1 | ... | ... | L. 992 9 0 | L. 40 0 0 | L. 23 0 0 | L. 1055 9 0 |
| 2 | L. 17 0 0 | L. 42 0 0 | 126 10 4 | 7 0 0 | 4 13 0 | 138 9 8 |
| 3 | 45 0 0 | 96 0 0 | 123 0 0 | 15 0 0 | Interest of L. 900 Scots. | ... |
| 4 | ... 0 0 | ... | 386 0 0 | See Account. | ... | ... |
| 5 | 50 0 0 | 84 0 0 | 308 0 0 | 16 0 0 | ... | 324 0 0 |
| 6 | 24 0 0 | 58 0 0 | 100 0 0 | 10 0 0 | ... | 110 0 0 |
| 7 | 16 0 0 | 50 0 0 | ... | ... | ... | 160 0 0 |
| 8 | 40 0 0 | 65 0 0 | 62 19 4 | 28 7 0 | ... | 91 6 4 |
| 9 | 20 0 0 | 45 0 0 | ... | 4 6 10 | 10 10 4 | ... |
| 10 | 26 0 0 | 77 0 0 | 153 0 0 | 7 0 0 | ... | 160 0 0 |
| 11 | 17 0 0 | 51 0 0 | 5 17 0 | 5 10 0 | 1 3 5 | 12 10 5 |
| 12 | 30 0 0 | 64 0 0 | 70 0 0 | 12 0 0 | ... | 82 0 0 |
| 13 | 20 0 0 | 54 0 0 | 60 0 0 | 6 0 0 | ... | 66 0 0 |
| 14 | 30 0 0 | 64 0 0 | 252 0 0 | 14 0 0 | ... | 266 0 0 |
| 15 | ... | ... | See Account. | 12 0 0 | ... | ... |
| 16 | 9 0 0 | 43 0 0 | ... | ... | ... | 38 5 0 |
| 17 | 22 0 0 | 53 0 0 | 80 0 0 | 12 0 0 | ... | ... |
| 18 | { 21 0 0 17 0 0 | 89 0 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 19 | 40 0 0 | 70 0 0 | 160 14 3 | 10 9 5 | ... | 171 3 8 |
| 20 | 30 0 0 | 64 0 0 | 150 0 0 | 15 0 0 | ... | 165 0 0 |
| 21 | 12 0 0 | 37 0 0 | ... | ... | 4 3 4 | ... |
| 22 | 16 0 0 | 46 0 0 | 52 0 0 | 6 18 3 | ... | 58 18 3 |
| 23 | ... | ... | See Account. | ... | ... | ... |
| 24 | ... | ... | 850 0 0 | 85 0 0 | 35 10 0 | 970 10 0 |
| 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 10 10 |
| 26 | 15 0 0 | 41 0 0 | 10 10 0 | ... | ... | ... |
| 27 | 90 0 0 | 123 0 0 | 1009 0 0 | 95 0 0 | ... | 1174 0 0 |
| 28 | 36 0 0 | 70 0 0 | ... | 7 0 0 | ... | ... |
| 29 | { 25 0 0 19 0 0 19 0 0 | 120 0 0 | 273 0 0 | 9 0 0 | ... | 282 0 0 |
| 30 | 72 0 0 | 123 6 6 | 381 13 4 | 21 12 3 | ... | ... |
| 31 | ... | ... | 209 0 0 | ... | ... | 280 0 0 |
| 32 | 44 0 0 | 94 0 0 | 116 12 8 | 21 6 5 | 0 13 4 | 138 12 5 |

N. B. The emoluments of the parochial schoolmasters stated in this table do not include what they derive from other sources than salaries and school fees.

TABLE II.—Shewing extent, &c. of Parishes in County of Roxburgh.

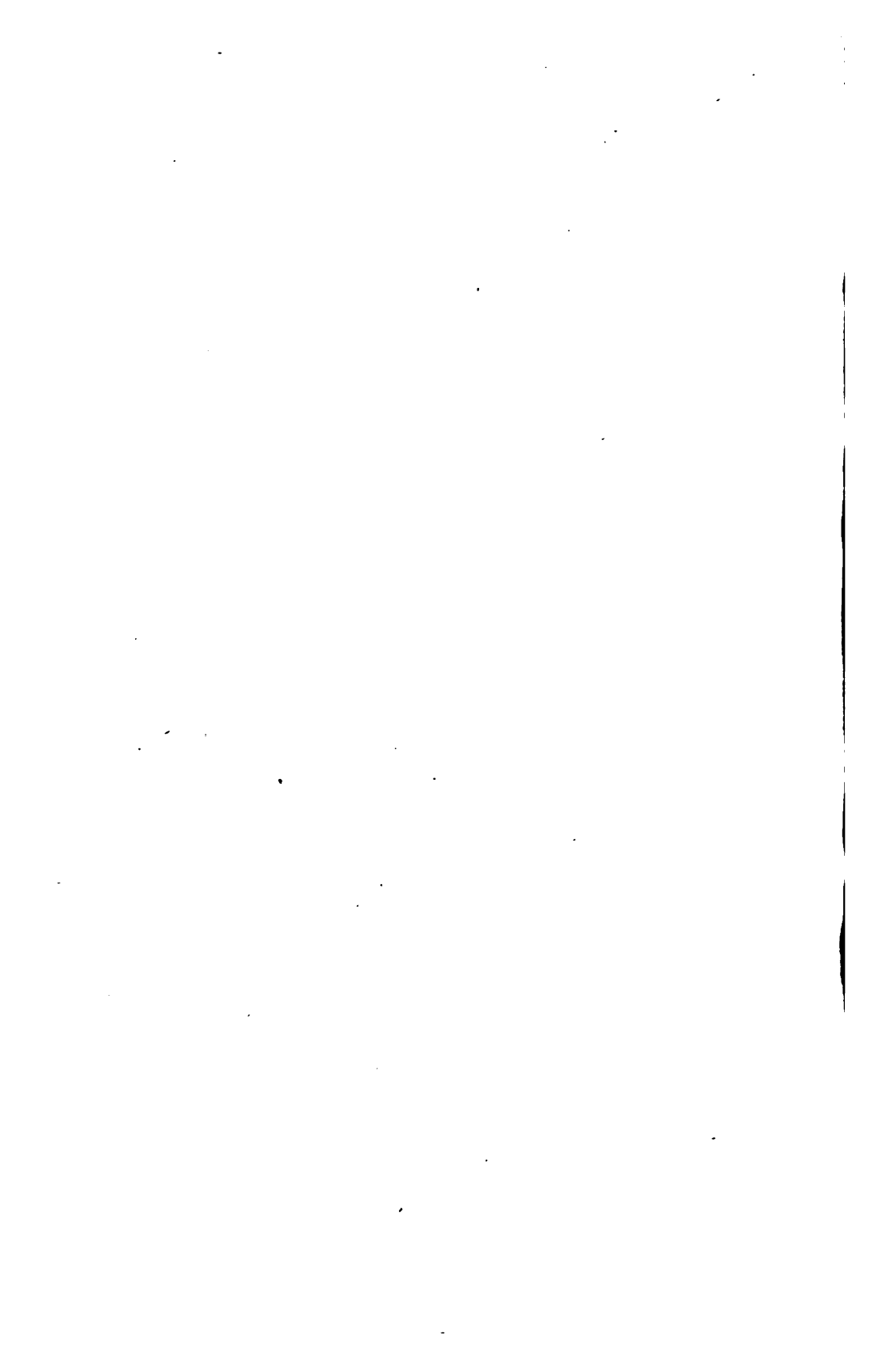
| Parish. | Acres in Parish. | Acres cultivated or occasionally tilled. | Acres uncultivated | Acres supposed capable of cultivation with profit. | Acres under wood. |
|---------------------|------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Jedburgh, . . . | ... | 14281 | 9418 | ... | 2488 |
| Lilliesleaf, . . . | ... | 2600 | 3650 | ... | 600 |
| Bowden, . . . | ... | 8460 | 2791 | 1000 | 260 |
| Melrose, . . . | ... | 21100 | 8800 | ... | 1200 |
| Wilton, . . . | 11200 | 7466 | 3734 | ... | 100 |
| Roberton, . . . | ... | 2000 | 28000 | ... | 550 |
| Southdean, . . . | ... | 3000 | ... | ... | 500 |
| St Boswell's, . . . | 2600 | 2560 | ... | ... | 175 |
| Maxton, . . . | 4514 | 3827 | 687 | ... | 668 |
| Roxburgh, . . . | ... | 5617 | 1956 | ... | 221 |
| Malkerston, . . . | 2854 | 2774 | ... | ... | 80 |
| Smallholm, . . . | ... | 3450 | 517 | ... | 60 |
| Linton, . . . | 6500 | 4750 | 1750 | ... | 80 |
| Yetholm, . . . | 5700 | 2600 | 3100 | ... | 100 |
| Crailing, . . . | 6415 | 5205 | 1210 | ... | 300 |
| Hounam, . . . | 14458 | 766 | 13692 | ... | 102 |
| Hobkirk, . . . | 19000 | 3400 | 15600 | ... | 860 |
| Eckford, . . . | ... | 7728 | 1967 | ... | 813 |
| Sprouston, . . . | 8207 | 7128 | 1079 | 400 | 123 |
| Ancrum, . . . | ... | 7496 | ... | ... | 820 |
| Oxnam, . . . | ... | 3480 | 17640 | ... | 650 |
| Ashkirk, . . . | ... | 2804 | ... | ... | 386 |
| Bedrule, . . . | ... | 1600 | ... | ... | ... |
| Kelso, . . . | 4400 | 3800 | 600 | ... | 215 |
| Minto, . . . | .. | 3205 | 2244 | ... | 786 |
| Kirktoun, . . . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hawick, . . . | ... | 4100 | 11260 | ... | 160 |
| Ednam, . . . | ... | 3700 | 180 | ... | 70 |
| Cavers, . . . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Castleton, . . . | 52160 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Morebattle, . . . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Stitchell, . . . | 5478 | ... | ... | ... | ... |

N. B.—The acres uncultivated include those capable of cultivation and those under wood.

ADDENDUM TO ACCOUNT OF THE PARISH OF CRAILING.

[The old people in Nisbet remember the gable end of the house in which Samuel Rutherford was born and brought up. It was regarded with peculiar honour as associated with the memory of so great and good a man, and was permitted to stand as long as it could hang together. Nor is it long since there were living in the village two old women, Jane and Isabella Rutherford, who claimed relationship to their eminent ancestor. Rutherford is one of the most ancient names in the barony.

The Soulises had a residence close to the village of Nisbet. The ruins of it existed till within a recent period. On the spot of its foundation were found two silver coins, one a crown piece of Philip II. of Spain, the other a small piece of one of the Edwards.



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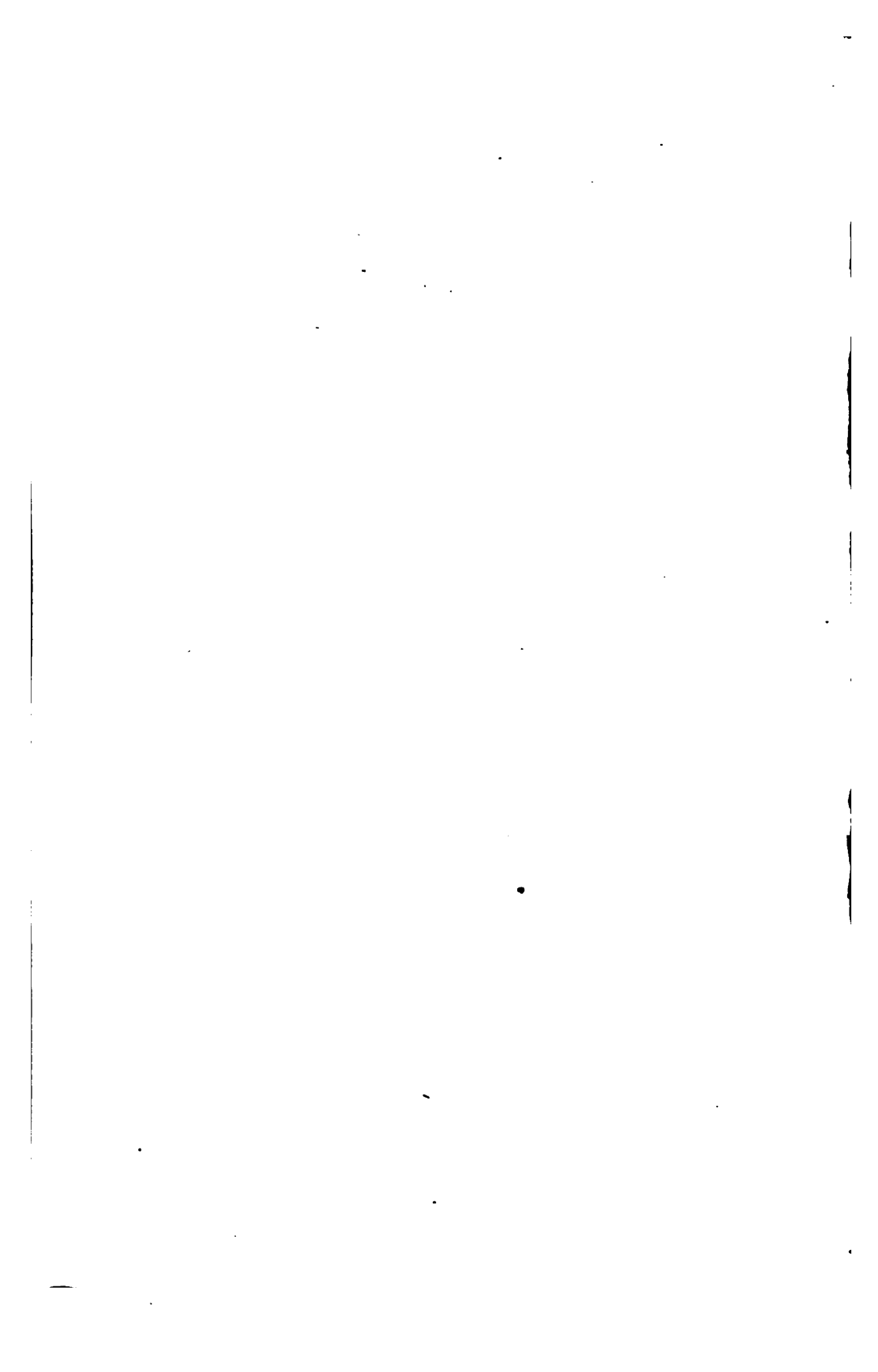
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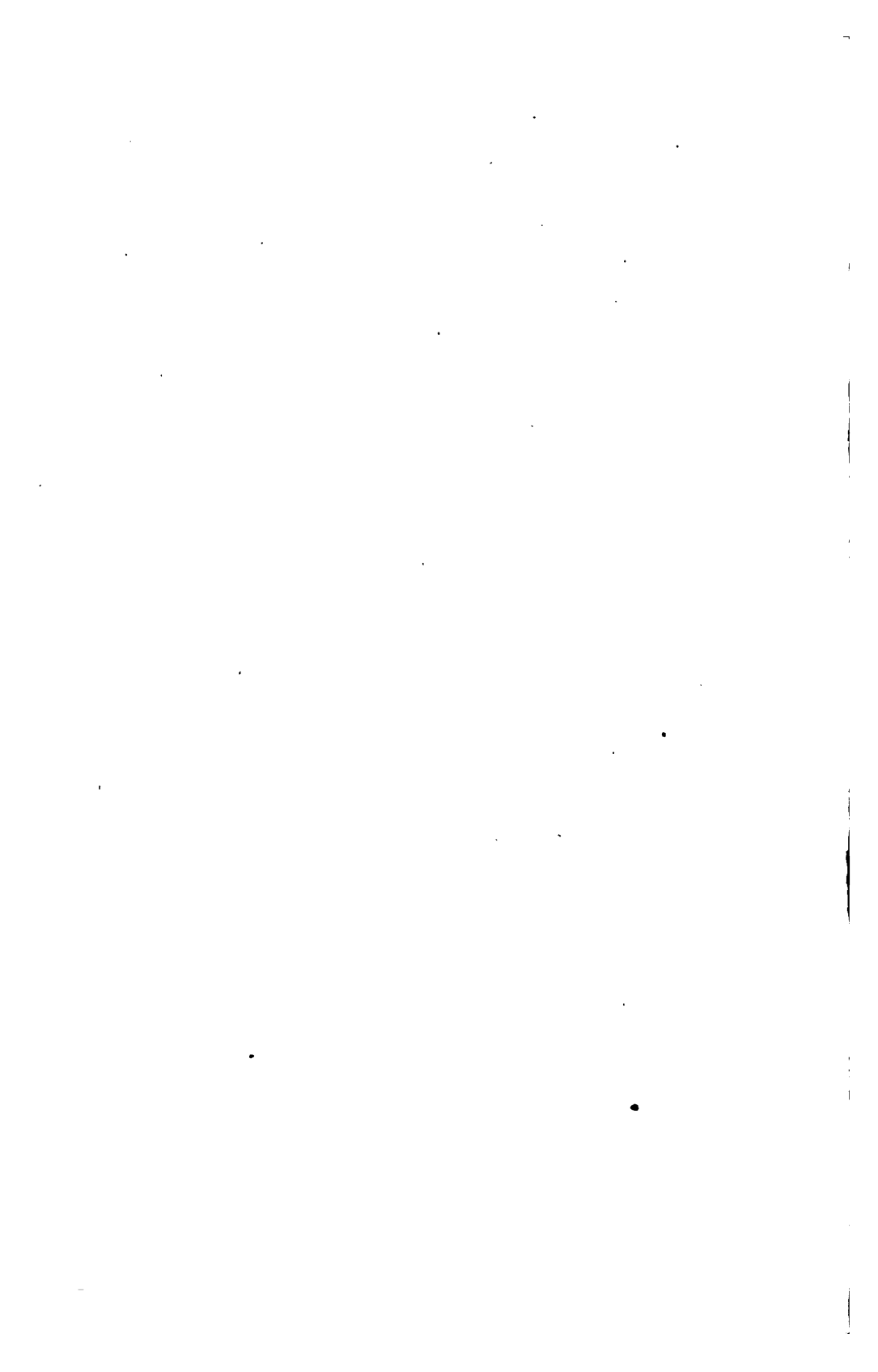
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PEEBLES.



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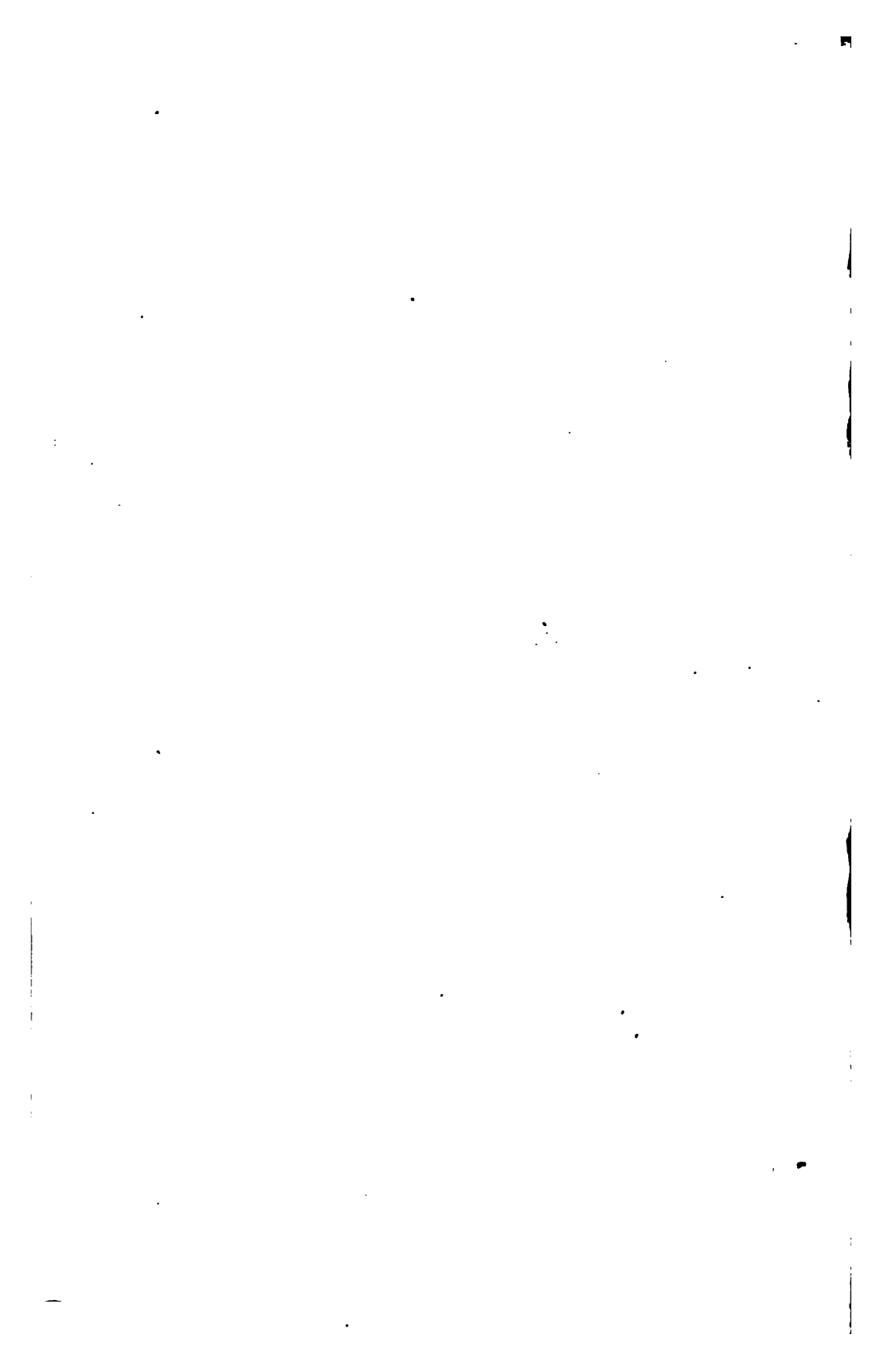
PEEBLES SHIRE.

British Miles



3° 20' Longitude West from Greenwich

Original map by John Lewis



PARISH OF PEEBLES.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN ELLIOT, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—In the grant made by David II. of some of the Burgh mails, the name is spelled Peblys : but the ordinary spelling in the old records is Peblis and Pebblis. In the oldest record belonging to the Presbytery, extending from 1596 to 1600, the name is almost uniformly written as at present, *Peebles*. In the next oldest record, from 1603 to 1624, it is generally spelled Peibles. The author of *Caledonia*, after an indifferent sarcasm against Dr Dalgliesh in the former Account, for deriving the name from “the pebbles with which the soil abounds,” deduces it from the Celtic word *Pebyll*, corresponding with the Saxon word *Shiels*, and signifying moveable dwellings or temporary encampments. The parish is bounded on the south by Manor and Yarrow; on the west, by Lyne, Stobo, and Manor; south-east, by Yarrow and Traquair; east, by Innerleithen; and north, by Eddlestone. From east to west it extends about six miles, and from north to south about ten; but the most southern part, stretching three or four miles into Selkirkshire, is uninhabited. The burgh may be considered as the centre of the parish; and none of the inhabitants are above $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the parish church. The parish is calculated by the author of the “Companion to the Map of Tweeddale” to contain 18,210 acres; which calculation was submitted to the Court of Teinds in 1821, and sustained.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect of the parish is hilly, except along the banks of the Eddlestone water and the Tweed, on the latter of which is a vale of considerable size, commencing at Peebles, and extending to the extremity of the parish towards the east. None of the hills rise to a great height, as in some of the neighbouring parishes. ‘They are, for the most part, grassy, except those towards the south, which are covered with heather, and abound in grouse.

Meteorology.—From the land being almost all of a light gravelly soil, from the absence of stagnant water or marshy ground, and from the elevated situation of the parish, the air is healthy, though keen. The medium height of the barometer at Peebles, 535 feet above the sea, is 29.2 in summer, and 29 in winter. The medium depth of rain yearly, on an average of seven years, is about 26.75 inches. The prevailing wind is the south-west, which blows at least nine months in the year. The eastern fogs, which overspread the Lothians, scarcely ever reach Peebles.

Hydrography.—The Tweed runs here a course of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, dividing the parish nearly into two equal parts. The whole course of this beautiful and far-famed river, the fourth in magnitude in Scotland, is about 90 miles, with a fall of 1500 feet; and it is calculated to drain about 1870 square miles of country. Though at Peebles it has run only about one-third of its course, it has fallen no less than 1000 feet, *i. e.* $33\frac{1}{3}$ feet per mile; and in the remainder of its course to Berwick, about 60 miles, it falls 500 feet, or $8\frac{1}{3}$ feet per mile.* On entering the parish of Peebles, and onwards, the Tweed is confined within narrow banks; but immediately below the bridge, a beautiful and extensive vale opens, resembling more an Italian than a Scottish landscape. On reaching the parish of Peebles, it receives the Lyne water; which, in the opinion of some writers, is entitled to be regarded as “the head of Tweed,” and not a tributary. The Lyne, however, has nothing of the character of a great river, and does not contain a sixth part of the waters of the Tweed. A mile lower down, the Tweed receives the Manor water from the south, the Eddlestone water at Peebles, and the Haystone burn two miles farther down. All these streams abound in trout; and anglers may be seen on their banks almost all the year. The quantity of trout caught from April to October is immense, and far exceeds belief. Salmon are sometimes taken in considerable numbers, but, owing to the distance from the sea, they are much inferior in quality to those caught near the mouth of the river. The system of drainage has proved unfavourable to the run of salmon, for the heaviest rains are soon carried off, and a flood seldom lasts more than a few hours; whereas

* The Rhone at Geneva is only 1154 feet above the level of the Mediterranean, according to Sir G. Shuckburgh, and yet the rapidity of its course seems infinitely greater than that of the Tweed. - This can be accounted for, only by the fact, that “the arrowy Rhone,” with its great mass of water, runs almost in a straight line, whereas the Tweed’s current is impeded by innumerable windings, which add to the beauties of this pastoral river.

formerly, a heavy rain required some days to run off; and the river being thus kept full, the fish could easily ascend.

Minerals.—Though the upper part of the country abounds in minerals, the parish of Peebles can boast of very few. Sandstone is unknown, and there has been no appearance of coal. A quarry of transition limestone, indeed, was opened many years ago about two miles from Peebles, on the Edinburgh road; but the lime was of so coarse a quality, and coals were so expensive, that the working of it was soon abandoned, and it has never since been resumed. Greywacke abounds in all the hills; and as it is frequently of a fine texture when dressed, the houses built of it have a very handsome appearance. The strata of the low grounds are generally covered with gravel and sand.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is reason to believe that Peebles contained a considerable number of inhabitants at a very early period. The fertile valleys on both sides of the Tweed would early invite settlers, and its secluded situation would afford them protection against hostile invasion. The wild mountains and thick forest of Ettrick protected the inhabitants against inroads from the south and east, and an equal barrier was opposed against invasion from the Lothians. It was only when the woods began to be cleared that the inhabitants at length took part in the disputed successions to the throne, or became exposed to the hostile inroads of the English.

Historical Notices.—The earliest notices of Peebles give intimation of some advancement in agriculture and civilization. The Inquisitio of David Earl of Cumberland, afterwards king David I. in 1116, found that there had belonged (it does not state how long) to the See of Glasgow, “una carrucata (ploughgate,) terræ et ecclesia;”* and shortly after, we find mention made of a mill and brewery. It is seldom that a poor or thinly inhabited district can support extensive religious establishments; Peebles must therefore have attained to considerable eminence. Accordingly, we find that Ingelram Newbigging, Rector of Peebles, and Archdeacon of Glasgow, after having been made Chancellor of the kingdom by King David in 1151, was appointed Bishop of Glasgow in 1164. When Rector of Peebles, he vigorously defended the independence of the Scottish church against the claim of superiority set up by Roger, Archbishop of York, in a provincial council held at Norham, and afterwards at Rome, where he recommended himself so much to the

* Gibson's Glasgow, p. 263.

favour of Pope Alexander the Third, that he was consecrated by him Bishop of Glasgow, notwithstanding the opposition made by the agents of the Archbishop of York. *

From a very early period, Peebles was the favourite residence of many of the Scottish kings, and particularly of Alexander III. who seems to have been much attached to it, and who gave a substantial proof of his munificence by building and endowing the Cross Kirk, and a monastery for Red Friars. The place was chosen from its vicinity to the extensive forests, in which these princes might enjoy the amusements of the chase. During the usurpation of Edward I. "the baillif, several burgesses, and tote la comunate de Pebles," swore fealty to him at Berwick in 1296. In 1304, the same king granted to Aymer de Valence "burgum nostrum de Pebbles cum molendinis." It does not appear, however, to have been created a Royal Burgh till the year 1367, when David II. granted it a charter, which was confirmed by charters from James II., James IV., and James VI. in 1621. The charter granted by David II. was probably given in reward for the loyalty of the inhabitants in having sent two representatives to the Scottish Parliament in 1357, to provide a ransom for their sovereign, who had been taken prisoner ten years before by the English at Neville's Cross. The town not being a royal burgh, must have been distinguished for its wealth and influence; otherwise it had not been entitled to join with sixteen of the principal towns in Scotland in sending representatives to Parliament.

The charter of James VI. confirming former grants and privileges, affords a strong proof of the liberality of former monarchs, and of the extensive possessions belonging to the burgh. "Our royal muir of Cademuir, Hamildean, Venlaw, Glentras, the Castle-hill, with the mill-granary, called the Ruid Mill, and Wauk Mill, built upon the side of the said Castle-hill, and with the mill-granary, called the Auld mill, upon the water of Peebles, the mill and granary of Innerleithen," † attest the wealth of the burgh in former times. Cademuir was afterwards divided into "*soums*" by the burgesses, and these *soums* are now sold like any other transferable property. The land is let as a sheep-farm, and the *soum*-holders receive rent according to the number of their shares. Of all the rest of the extensive possessions, little else now remains than the farm of Shielgreen, acquired by purchase, and a few fields near the town. "Large tracts of land," says the author of the Agri-

* Gibson's History of Glasgow, p. 11.

† Charter of James VI.

cultural Survey of Peebles-shire, "extending on the hills for six or seven miles downward to Gatehope burn, would seem to have been granted to Peebles in property, or in right of pasturage, the rights to which are now lost, from encroachment, or through dereliction."* In 1712, in a petition to the presbytery against the induction of the presentee to the church by the magistrates, chiefly on account of his youth, they lay much stress on their paying *one-third* of the stipend. At present the stipend paid by the burgh is, on an average, only L.16 a-year. †

In 1545, when the Earl of Hertford, afterwards Protector Somerset, in revenge for the defeat which the English had sustained the year before under Lord Evers, from the Scots, commanded by the Earl of Angus, destroyed the towns of Kelso and Melrose, with their magnificent abbeys,—Peebles shared the same fate, and was reduced to ashes. The churches, greatly inferior to those two splendid edifices, seem to have escaped the vengeance of the invaders and were spared. In 1604, the town suffered severely from an accidental fire. The houses being thatched, the destruction of property was very great. In the civil war, Cromwell's troops occupied Peebles during the siege of Neidpath Castle, and, from want of accommodation, they stabled their horses in St. Andrew's Church, the principal place of worship in the parish. From there being no record or tradition of excesses committed, it is probable that the severe discipline of the Protector secured the inhabitants against any outrage of the soldiers. "The inhabitants of this district," says Pennecuik, "are of so loyal and peaceable dispositions, that they have seldom or never appeared in arms against their lawful sovereign; nor were there amongst that great number twelve persons from Tweeddale at the insurrection of Rullion-green or Bothwell Bridge. Of their loyalty they gave sufficient testimony at the fight of Philiphaugh, where several of them were killed by David Leslie's army, and others, the most eminent of their gentry, taken prisoners." In the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, the inhabitants of Peebles remained unconcerned spectators of the struggle; and, though there were Jacobite families in the district, they had fortunately the prudence to take no part in the unhappy conflict.

But though the inhabitants of Tweeddale have been distinguish-

* Findlater's Survey, p. 10.

† Mr John Hay, the *youthful* presentee, after five years' litigation before the superior courts, overcame the objections made against him on the ground of his youth, and was an able and efficient minister till 1760.

ed for their peaceful habits,—in seasons of danger and alarm they rivalled their border brethren of Selkirk and Roxburgh-shires in patriotic devotedness to the service of their country. When the war broke out after the treaty of Amiens, and the country was threatened with foreign invasion, an additional levy of volunteers and yeomanry was ordered, and the loyal inhabitants of Peebles, considering the exigencies of the times, mustered no less than 682 effective officers and men as an infantry corps, and two troops of cavalry, making a total of 820 soldiers,—besides furnishing their *quota* to the militia. This force, out of a population of 8800, exceeded the muster made by any other county in Scotland, according to the number of its inhabitants; and in that spirit-stirring period, a finer body of men could not be found in Britain, nor one more prepared to repel foreign invasion, or “nobly die the second glorious part,” than the hardy and patriotic sons of Tweeddale. In Pennecuik’s time the number of militia was 266 foot, and 29 horse.

Ecclesiastical History.—At what period, Peebles was added to the diocese of Glasgow, it is difficult to ascertain. That it had belonged to it previous to the inquisitio of David in 1116, we have already seen. When that prince refounded the see of Glasgow, he seems to have conferred on the bishops of Glasgow the whole of the ecclesiastical rights, while he retained the demesne of Peebles.

The church of St Andrew, for many ages the parish church, seems to have been built on the ruins of the old one in the year 1195, as it was consecrated by Bishop Joceline, who, in 1174, succeeded Ingelram, already mentioned. In 1260, the Conventual Church of the Holy Cross was built by Alexander III. in honour of St. Nicholas, who was supposed to have suffered martyrdom in the third century. This church of the Holy Cross was one of the four in Scotland called ministries, and their governor was styled minister.† It was founded for Red or Trinity friars, seventy in number; and was richly endowed, not only by its royal founder, but by many princely donations, particularly from the noble and powerful family of Frazer, who, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, possessed a great part of Tweeddale. The strath of the Tweed, from its source to the brook which forms the eastern boundary of

* For a full account of the erection and endowment of this church, the reader is referred to the original record found in St. John’s College, Cambridge, and inserted in Pennecuik’s Description of Tweeddale, p. 33.

† Connell on Tithes.

the parish of Peebles, separating it from Innerleithen, was the property of that family,—extending to about thirty miles.

Some branches of the family of Frazer acquired extensive property in East-Lothian, and we learn from Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*, that a branch of that family was proprietor of the lands of Forton, in the parish of Athelstaneford. Frazer of Forton seems to have given from his lands of East Forton ten bolls of wheat and ten bolls of barley, to the monks of the Cross Church of Peebles; and that quantity of grain continued to be delivered to the minister of the Holy Cross Church of Peebles after the Reformation, when monastic institutions were abolished in Scotland. That donation of grain from the lands of Forton had been reckoned so valuable, that it was included in the deed of entail of the March estate, and has descended to the Earl of Wemyss and March, the heir of entail.

In 1218, Patrick, the fifth Earl of Dunbar, founded a monastery of Red friars at Dunbar; and Christian Bruce, wife of Patrick, the seventh Earl of Dunbar, and only daughter of Robert the Bruce, competitor with Baliol for the throne of Scotland, built a noble mansion for the Red friars at Dunbar. That establishment was suppressed at Dunbar sometime before the Reformation; and in the inventory of the late Duke of Queensberry's papers, is the following extract: "Gift by King James the Fifth, under the Great Seal, to the Holy Cross Church of Peebles, of a house in Dunbar built by Christian Bruce, Countess of Dunbar, and given by her to the brethren of the order of the Holy Trinity, formerly at Dunbar, then translated to Peebles, dated 5th July 1529."

It appears from other documents, that sundry houses in the West Port of Edinburgh, and certain lands in the parish of Cramond, had been gifted to the Cross Church of Peebles. All the above sources of income appear to have been conferred on William Earl of March, second son of the Duke of Queensberry, at the periods of the Revolution of 1688, and of the Union in 1707, together with fifty acres of rich glebe land lying in the vicinity of the church,—only four acres being reserved for the minister of the parish of Peebles.

Dr Pennecuik mentions *three* churches and *three* old steeples. The *third* church was the chapel attached to the castle, which in former times stood on the mound called the Castle-hill, on which the present church is built. The chapel stood twenty or thirty yards to the east of the present church, and occupied the middle

of the High Street. It was a long narrow Gothic building, but when or by whom built is unknown. It seems not to have belonged to the see of Glasgow, but, according to the Rev. James Morton, author of the *Monastic Annals of Teviotdale*, King William confirmed to the monks of Kelso the possession of the chapel of the castle of Peebles, with a ploughgate belonging to it, and 10s. a-year, granted by his grandfather, King David, out of the revenues of the burgh, to found a chapel in which to say mass for the soul of his son Earl Henry. * Immediately to the west of this chapel ran the town wall; and a *port* opened to a deep ditch or pass, which might be considered a kind of *fosse*, to prevent an entrance from the bridge. The chapel continued for many years to be the place of the meeting of presbytery and kirk-session, and frequently for the celebration of marriages, till the building of the present church was begun, when it was pulled down. Of the castle and its chapel, not a vestige now remains.

A hospitium dedicated to St Leonard for the support of aged and infirm persons, and for temporary relief to strangers, stood at the eastern extremity of the parish, on the farm of Eshiels, part of the Hayston estate. No part of it now remains. At the Reformation, the church of the Holy Cross became the parish church; but from the numerous meetings of the heritors for repairs, as recorded in the session-books, it seems for many years to have been in very bad order. It was finally abandoned in 1784, when the present church was opened for public worship. Of St Andrew's church little now remains except the tower. It stands in the midst of a spacious burying-ground, which, though of great antiquity, contains no monuments of any great interest. The Cross church, when deserted, by being used as a quarry, was fast disappearing, when a public-spirited citizen, the late Mr John Turnbull, purchased it from the magistrates, and stopped the work of desecration. The late Sir John Hay, whose family vault it contained, afterwards purchased it, and, planting a considerable piece of ground around it, enclosed the whole with a wall. The cross, which stood on that part of the High Street which still bears its name, was also doomed to destruction, and was sold for building materials. It was a work of great antiquity, having been erected by one of the Frazers of Neidpath Castle before the time of Robert the Bruce, and bears the arms of the Frazers. After the pedestal had been

* Morton's *Monastic Remains*.

removed, and used in the ignoble work for which it was sold, the shaft was purchased, at about five times the price which had been paid for the whole, by the present Sir John Hay, and was by him transported to his seat of King's Meadows, where it ornaments the pleasure-ground of the only descendant of the Frazers now in Tweeddale.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest session record is entitled “ a Register of the Kirke at Pebles, containing the discipline of the sessione by the elderis, and diligence of the deacones for the poore, there begun in the year 1657. Mr John Hay, minister.”—The session consisted of no less than eight elders and six deacons for the burgh, and seven elders and six deacons for the landward part of the parish. The records appear to have been kept with great accuracy till 1760, from which time till 1808 they are written on detached pieces of paper, and, like the Sibylline leaves, they have been *ludibria ventis*, as many of them are irrecoverably lost. The presbytery and synod records extend back as far as 1596, and are in a state of good preservation. The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1622, and ends in 1659 ; that of funerals begins in 1660.

Antiquities.—On the top of the hill of Cademuir may be traced the remains of a Roman camp, and on Janet's Brae, about half a mile east from Peebles, the remains of two camps are still visible. The castle of Neidpath has been so often described of late that a very short notice of it may suffice. It is a large square building, more distinguished for massive strength than architectural beauty. It was built and long possessed by the powerful family of Frazer, and, by the marriage of the heiress of that house, passed, along with the hereditary sheriffship of the county, into the family of the Hays of Gifford, the ancestor of the present Marquis of Tweeddale. In 1686, the second Earl of Tweeddale sold his estates in Peebles-shire to the first Duke of Queensberry, who settled them on his second son, the Earl of March, who, on the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1747, claimed L. 4000 for the sheriffship of Peebles, and was allowed L. 3418, 4s. 5d. for that office and the regality of Newlands.* The late Duke of Queensberry, who was born in the town residence of the noble family of March in Peebles, commonly called the deans' house, as it had belonged to the deans of Peebles in former days, spent the early part of his life, and was educated in Neidpath Castle.

* List of Claims.

Peblis to the Play, &c.—Peebles, though in former times celebrated for games and amusements, at which sovereigns presided, can now boast of no such diversions. “*Peblis to the Play*” gives us a good specimen of former sports and pastimes. “It was composed,” as a profound scholar, and good judge of early Scottish literature writes to me, “by James I., one of the most distinguished characters of the age in which he lived. It is written in the same stanza as *Christ-kirk on the Grene*. Like that poem, it is descriptive of rustic merriment and of rustic quarrels, and it is conspicuous for the same rich vein of native humour. It was first published by Pinkerton, and occurs in his select Scottish Ballads, Vol. ii. Lond. 1783.” By a strange and unaccountable mistake which a perusal of one stanza of the poem would have corrected, *Peblis to the Play* has often been ascribed to Allan Ramsay, who, like Hercules of old, seems to have fathered all unappropriated prodigies. Connected with the locality of Peebles is another poem of merit though little known. “From an edition which appeared at Edinburgh in 1603, Mr Pinkerton has also published,” says the learned author of the *Life of Buchanan*, “*The Thrie Tailies of the Thrie Priests of Peblis*. These tales, with apparent propriety, have been referred to the reign of James III. Many of the allusions are completely applicable to the conduct of that deluded prince. King James, it will be necessary to recollect, was slain in the year 1488; and the style of the poem does not seem of a modern cast. “The three priests of Peebles having met on St Bride’s day for the purpose of regaling themselves, agree that each in his turn shall endeavour to entertain the rest by relating some story. They acquit themselves with sufficient propriety. The tales are of a moral tendency, but at the same time are free from the dulness which so frequently infests the preceptive compositions of our earlier poets.”* The earliest edition that has been traced of this curious poem was “imprinted at Edinburgh be Robert Charteris,” 1603, 4to. It is a book of great rarity, and probably not more than one copy exists.

III.—POPULATION.

Before the Reformation the population was probably far greater than at present. The numerous religious houses, the charitable endowments, the *hospitia*, the mills and breweries, all betoken a great propulation, and a well-maintained set of inhabitants. There is much truth in many of our old Scotch songs, which ascribe

* Irving’s *Lives of the Early Scottish Poets*, Vol. i. p. 372.

comfort and plenty to the neighbourhood of mills and breweries. As every farm-steading, and almost every hamlet had its brewery, and generally its mill, and as numerous cottages were invariably, till about the middle or close of last century, attached to farm-houses, we might naturally expect to find a great population. Besides this, the members of religious houses were in general not only good farmers themselves, but they taught their tenants, to whom they were kind and indulgent landlords, the best mode of cultivating their lands. Hence we almost invariably find that the prevalence of religious houses in any district during the time of Popery, so far from checking agricultural improvements, had the opposite effect; and if the best land of the parish belonged to such establishments, it was not because the monks or friars appropriated it to themselves, which they had no power to do, but because, while the bulk of the community were engaged in warfare, or were too indolent or ignorant to cultivate their lands, *they* were rendering theirs productive by their superior diligence, industry, and skill. So far from many of the inmates of the religious houses being only lazy drones, "*fruges consumere nati*," they laboured with their own hands to raise the produce which they consumed.

Other circumstances some ages ago contributed to the population of Peebles. It was the favourite summer quarters of the Scottish kings for the sports of the chase till the accession of James VI. to the crown of England; the residence of many of the Scottish nobility, and the castle of Neidpath, the seat of the powerful family, whether of the Frazers, the Hays, or the Douglasses,—could not fail to attract a numerous train of followers and dependents. Add to this, that the great extent of the burgh lands and free pasturage must have contributed to keep up a great population, as many of the burgesses were enabled by their civic privileges to live as small farmers.

The present incumbent has examined the presbytery and session records from the earliest date, but he can no where find any entry made of the number of the inhabitants. Dr Webster's report gave 1896 souls; but Mr Findlater observes, that "that return was made up from calculations founded upon the proportion which the whole population is supposed to bear to the examinable persons upon the minister's examination roll." No accurate calculation can be given from such *data*. It is extremely difficult to make up accurate lists, and the number of examinable persons may fluctuate in different years.

According to Dr Dalgliesh's return in the former Statistical Account, the population was

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| In the old town, | - | - | - | 350 |
| In the new town, | - | - | - | 1180 |
| In the landward part of the parish, | - | - | - | 440 |
| | | | | — 1920 |

The Government return of 1801 gave 2088 *
 1821 - 2701
 1831 - 2750 †

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. Families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 93 |
| trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | - | 365 |
| 2. All other families not comprised in the above lists, | - | - | - | 185 |
| 3. Occupiers of land employing labourers, | - | - | - | 27 |
| only their own families, | - | - | - | 3 |
| 4. Labourers employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 100 |

From the 1st of January 1827 to the 1st of January 1833, the number of proclamations was 134, giving an average of $22\frac{1}{3}$ yearly. Of these cases, when both parties belonged to the parish, the number was 79; and 55 when only one belonged to the parish.

The number of baptisms, as recorded from the beginning of 1827 to the end of 1832, is 284, averaging $47\frac{1}{3}$ a-year. But, as many of the dissenters do not register the births of their children, the above list is considerably below the number of children born.

As the church-yard has been for some years past carefully watched, the remains of persons belonging to other parishes are frequently brought hither for interment; a very accurate return, therefore, of the number of deaths in this parish cannot be given. But as nearly as can be calculated, the average number of deaths may be stated at 47 a-year, for several years past. From 1780 to 1789, inclusive, the yearly average was $48\frac{1}{10}$; from 1790 to the end of the century the number was $31\frac{5}{10}$ a-year; and from 1800 to 1809, inclusive, it was $48\frac{1}{10}$ a-year.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| In 1660, the number of baptisms was 50 | In 1660, the number of burials was 43 |
| 1661, - - - 52 | 1661, - - - 89 |
| 1662, - - - 69 | 1662, - - - 58 |
| 1669, - - - 65 | 1699, - - - 103 |
| 1700, - - - 38 | 1700, - - - 67 |
| 1799, - - - 41 | 1799, - - - 39 |
| 1800, - - - 44 | 1800, - - - 61 |

It is not probable that there will be any great increase of population either in the burgh or landward part of the parish for many years to come. Hamlets have disappeared; and no more cottages are kept up than what are sufficient for the accommodation of the

* The number of males returned was probably less than it ought to have been, owing to the reluctance of the young men to be billeted for the militia, and their names being therefore suppressed.

† From a very accurate list made out in 1830 by the elders, there were in the Old Town, 537; in the New Town, 1563; in the landward part of the parish, 717; making a total of 2817.

cultivators of the soil. The town is not extending its limits, and when a house is built, it is generally a handsome structure raised on the site of one that has fallen to decay, adding to the beauty of the town without increasing the number of inhabitants.

The number of illegitimate births in the parish annually may average 5.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of Scotch acres under the plough is 2500: and it is believed that a very small portion of land not yet cultivated could be cultivated with profit.

Plantations.—When Dr Pennecuik published his Description of Tweeddale in 1715, there seems to have been very little wood in this county. “Their greatest want,” says he, “is of timber, little planting to be seen in Tweeddale, except it be some few bushes of trees about the houses of the gentry, and not one wood worth the naming in all this open and windy county; so that this unhappy want of foresight in their forefathers necessitates them to be obliged to the sheriffdom of Lanrick for most part of the timber necessary for their houses and husbandry.”* This reproach is now fortunately wiped off, and the county, particularly the lower part of it, presents a different aspect from what it did in Pennecuik’s days. The late Sir John Hay, the principal proprietor in this parish, towards the end of last century, in addition to various improvements on the estate of Haystone, planted above 300 acres. The present Sir John Hay has within these three years planted upwards of 700 acres, and is still carrying on the work of planting. The Earl of Wemyss and March has also planted between 200 and 300 acres; and other proprietors, though on a smaller scale, have ornamented their estates with plantations.

The land is a light sharp soil, well adapted for oats, barley, and pease. Of late years, wheat has been sown to a considerable extent, and if the returns are not equal to those in the Lothians, the deficiency is not to be ascribed to the unskilfulness of the farmer, but to the difference of soil. The quality seems excellent.†

Husbandry.—The farmers having, from experience, found that the land “had become tired of bearing rye-grass and clover,” instead of a rotation of four years, extend it to five and six years. Turnips are universally cultivated, and are frequently eaten on the

* Description, p. 4.

† The wheat raised on the glebe this year from white Essex wheat on potatoe land, and sown in October, weighed 18 st. 12 lb. imperial weight, of four bushels to the boll, exclusive of the sack.

ground by sheep. The ordinary rotation is, 1. after grass, oats; 2. pease, turnips, or potatoes; 3. wheat or barley, and then rye-grass and clover. The writer of this in spring 1832, and again in 1833, tried the experiment of sowing oats of the Kildrummy kind in the month of February, as he had seen practised in the south of England. Both experiments perfectly succeeded, though he was told that one-half of the seed would be destroyed by the wet, and the other half be devoured by birds. The return this season from scarcely three quarters of an English acre was 8 bolls 4 bushels imperial measure, of 6 bushels to the boll, and 2 bushels of light grain. It was of excellent quality. When made into meal, it yielded a good deal more than what millers term *meal* for *corn*. In the beginning of last November, he sowed two small patches with barley and oats, the braird of which promises well.

Breeds of Live Stock.—The Teeswater breed of cattle is generally reared by the farmers, as it fattens best for the butcher. The sheep are the Cheviot and black-faced breed. *Smearing* is generally practised, and tends greatly to the preservation of sheep. Tar and palm-oil are generally used on black-faced sheep, and tar and butter on the Cheviot. About six fleeces of the black-faced smeared make a stone of 24 lb., and from six to eight fleeces of the Cheviot. *Rock mercury* was at one time used for smearing, but as it was found neither to contribute to the warmth of the sheep, nor to promote the growth of the wool, it was laid aside. Wool has been sold at higher prices this year than for many years past. Black-faced, *smeared*, was sold at 13s. a-stone, and the Cheviot from 20s. to 23s. a-stone of 24lb. The diseases to which the sheep in this parish are most subject are sickness and the louping-ill. The former is inflammation in the bowels or blood, and prevails in pastures where heather abounds. *Hogs* suffer most from this disease. Castor-oil or salts are the best remedies. The louping-ill or palsy prevails in the month of May and beginning of June, particularly during a dry east wind. It attacks lambs and sheep of all ages. *Sturdy*, or water in the head, may also be mentioned in the list of diseases. The seat of the disease is easily discovered by that part of the skull becoming soft and spongy. If not near the root of the horns, it is generally cured by applying red hot iron; but this seldom succeeds if the disease is near the horns.

Rent of Land.—The rent of arable land may be reckoned at 25s. an acre, except a few fields near the town, which bring a higher rent. One of the best farms in the parish, and per-

haps in the county, consisting of 450 acres, all arable, is let for L. 625 a-year. The yearly rental of the parish is supposed to be about L. 7000.

Rate of Wages.—Female servants receive from L. 4 to L. 5 from Whitsunday till Martinmas, and between L. 2 to L. 3 for the other half year. Ploughmen, when lodged in their masters' houses, receive from L. 8 to L. 14 a-year. When married men, they are paid in meal, money, a cow's grass, &c. Shepherds in this pastoral county have generally a certain number of *grazings* for sheep, and their wages must therefore depend on the price of wool and the value of sheep. Labourers during the summer are paid from 9s. to 12s. a-week: masons and wrights, 15s.

The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows.

Assuming that there are 3000 English acres, and that *five* years are the usual rotation, 600 acres will thus be annually allowed for each crop. An entire crop is seldom taken of one kind of grain, &c. as in the fourth and fifth *break*.

| | | | | |
|--|---|----------|---|---|
| 600 acres sown grass, 150 stone per acre, at 7d per stone, | - | L. 2,625 | 0 | 0 |
| 600 do. the same in pasture for 300 cattle at L. 3 each, | - | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| 600 do. oats, 8 bolls per acre, at 12s. per boll, | - | 2,880 | 0 | 0 |
| 150 do. potatoes, 20 bolls per acre, at 5s. per boll, | - | 750 | 0 | 0 |
| 150 do. pease, 4 bolls per acre, at 15s. per boll, | - | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| 300 do. turnips, at L. 3 per acre, | - | 900 | 0 | 0 |
| 200 do. wheat, 12 bolls per acre, at 25s. per boll, | - | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 400 do. barley, 10 bolls per acre, at 16s. per boll, | - | 3,200 | 0 | 0 |
| The annual thinnings, &c. bark of the larch, &c. | - | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Grazing for 8000 sheep at 5s. each per annum, | - | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |

L. 17,005 0 0

To the above may be added wool, lambs, &c.

| | | | | |
|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Wool, black-faced, <i>smear'd</i> , 1000 stone at 13s. per stone, | - | 650 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. Cheviot, <i>smear'd</i> , 143 st. at 22s. per st. | - | 157 | 6 | 0 |
| Do. do. <i>not smear'd</i> , 143 st. at 32s. per st. | - | 228 | 6 | 0 |
| 5000 lambs sold, averaging 10s. each, | - | 2,500 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 kept for breeding, feeding, &c. | - | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 ewes, hogs, wethers, &c. sold annually at 20s. | - | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |

*L. 5,385 12 0

Manufactures.—Much has been said against the want of enterprise and public spirit in the inhabitants not introducing manufactures. The high price of coals is one obstacle; and, though there is plenty of water, it might be difficult to procure another *fall* of water in addition to that of the Tweed used for the corn-mills, and that of the Eddlestone water for the waulk-mills. A manufactory for carding, spinning, and making cloth, flannel, and plaiding to a very considerable extent, has for several years existed. In the

* No allowance is here made for deaths, which, in wet winters and barren springs, are very considerable; the calculations, especially on the last two items, are probably too high, as the total amount shews rather more than the usual proportion to the rental.

same establishment waulking and dyeing are carried on. Stocking-making is also a branch of manufacture here, but of very limited extent. Cotton webs are sent from Glasgow, but afford a very poor remuneration to the weavers, few of whom can, with the utmost diligence, earn more than six shillings a-week.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town.—Peebles, the capital of the county, and the seat of the presbytery, is situated on the north side of the Tweed, in latitude 55° 38' 40", and 3° 6' west longitude, the meridian of Edinburgh passing through the town. It is 21 miles south from Edinburgh, 22 from Selkirk, and 54 from Glasgow. The town is divided into the Old and New, the former standing on a high ridge of ground, with the Tweed forming the southern boundary; and extending to the east on a lower tract of ground; it is bounded by the Eddlestone or Peebles water. The New town, with the exception of a few paltry houses on the south side of the Tweed, lies in a peninsula formed by that river and the Eddlestone water. This water runs in almost an opposite direction to the Tweed, and falls into it, contrary to the course of most rivers, forming an acute angle, with the apex pointing up the stream. The New town presents the strange anomaly of being bounded on the south by a river running due east, and on the north by another river running due west.

The burgh of Peebles, till the passing of the bill which altered the representative system, joined with Selkirk, Linlithgow, and Lanark, in returning a member of Parliament. It was then thrown into the county. The town-council consists of a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild and treasurer, with twelve councillors. The number of electors amounts to about 94. The revenues of the burgh amount to about L. 643, from the following sources :

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--------------|----|----|
| Rents of lands, | - | - | - | L. 333 | 2 | 6½ |
| Rents of mills, houses, &c. | - | - | - | 168 | 14 | 2 |
| Customs, &c. | - | - | - | 120 | 5 | 0 |
| Feu-duties, | - | - | - | 10 | 9 | 8½ |
| Interest on fences, &c. | - | - | - | 10 | 17 | 9½ |
| | | | | <hr/> L. 643 | | |
| | | | | 9 2½ | | |

The amount of debt in October 1833 was L. 5426, 2s. 5d. The income at present is more than sufficient for all expenses, and even for discharging part of the debt. The town is very well supplied with water, and lighted with gas from the burgh funds. The weekly market for grain in bulk has within these few years been revived, and the magistrates, with a becoming liberality to encourage the farmers to bring their grain, make no demand for customs.

Roads and Bridges.—From the excellence of the materials of

which they are made, the roads in Tweeddale are generally very good, but too narrow, and in a hilly country where precipices are so common, the want of parapets is greatly felt, and adds to the danger of travelling by night. It is not known when the bridge across the Tweed at Peebles was built. As the style of architecture in the different arches and piers is not the same, it was probably built at different times.* It consists of five arches in the channel of the river, and three small arches on dry ground, for carrying off the water when the Tweed overflows its banks. The bridge is inconveniently narrow, being only eight feet wide, admitting only one carriage at a time, but it will probably be widened in the course of next summer, as an act of Parliament has been obtained for that purpose. An iron bridge for foot-passengers was thrown across the Tweed a little below Peebles, where it is 108 feet wide, by Sir John Hay, about sixteen years ago, to connect his pleasure grounds, which lie on both sides of the river. It is a light handsome structure, and, though much exposed to violent winds, it is as perfect as when it was built. A survey was made several years ago by Mr Telford, for the purpose of forming an iron rail-road between Glasgow and Berwick, but the design was abandoned.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church was built in 1784, and stands at the west end of the High Street, on a small eminence, on which the castle of Peebles formerly stood. It is a substantial edifice, built of dark-coloured whinstone, and if a little more architectural taste had been shown, it would have been very ornamental to the High Street. In imitation of Catholic and Episcopal churches, it is placed due east and west instead of fronting the High Street, which runs a few points north-east and south-west. The massive steeple which, by being built inside the church, destroys the uniformity of the gallery, should have been placed outside of the church, and flanked with a few pillars. The seats in the body of the church, by running *across* instead of *lengthways*, make the audience sit with their side to the pulpit. Being built on a gravelly mound, and the whole of the workmanship being of the best order, the church is extremely comfortable for the audience, and this comfort has been still farther increased by a stove having been introduced two years ago.

The stipend, which was augmented in 1821, consists of 139 bolls, 1 peck of oatmeal, and the same quantity of barley, paid according to the highest rate of fiar prices in the county, and L.39, 19s. surrendered

* On one of the piers are the letters IVII26, which may perhaps be meant for 1426.

teind in money. In this is included the sum of L. 10 for communion elements. The amount of stipend varies from L. 250 to L. 400 a-year, according to the fiars prices. The teinds are so nearly exhausted, that no farther augmentation can take place. According to Penne-cuik, the annual value of the living of Peebles was 6000 merks, *communibus annis*, but to this was attached the rectory of Manor.* At the revolution in 1688, on the final establishment of the Presbyterian Religion, when a valuation was made of the different livings, in the Presbytery Records it is stated, that the minister of Manor declared, "that his paroch being a pendicle of Peebles, he was presented with the small vicceradge of the paroch, for the payment whereof, he had his localitie from the parson of Peebles. The parson of Peebles furnishes the communion elements." It is stated by Dr Dalgliesh, that at the reformation, "the patron of the parish assigned part of the vicarage tithes of Peebles to the master of the grammar school." A vicar still exists in the parish who draws between L. 17 and L. 18 a-year, from the small tithes, but has no connexion with the grammar-school, nor any ecclesiastical establishment, farther than precenting in church. This appointment is in the gift of the patron of the parish.

The old part of the manse was built in 1770, and a front was added to it in 1812, giving four additional rooms. It stands on the top of a steep bank, 22 feet above the surface of the Tweed, which washes the garden on the south. It is in excellent order, and in every respect is a very desirable residence. The glebe consists of $6\frac{1}{4}$ English acres, of which about three quarters of an acre are meadow, and the rest arable, and of excellent quality. When the addition was made to the manse, upwards of an acre of meadow land was *exchanged* from the glebe, for a piece of ground which lay adjoining to the garden of the manse. The Earl of Wemyss, who succeeded to the title and estates of the Earl of March, on the death of the Duke of Queensberry, is patron of the parish.

There are four dissenting places of worship in the burgh; two of the Associate Synod, one of which formerly belonged to the Antiburgher communion; one of the Relief; and one Episcopal. That which belonged to the Antiburghers is now vacant, the last two clergymen having gone to America; but another is on the eve of being settled. The stipend is to be L. 65 a-year, with a house and garden. The other Associate Synod congregation pay their minister L. 130 a-year, including communion ele-

* Description, p. 2.

ments, besides a house and garden. The minister informs me that his charge extends to no less than *nine* parishes. The clergyman of the Episcopal communion had from the beginning of his labours in 1828, L. 70 a-year, but a reduction of L. 20 being proposed, he resigned his charge at Whitsunday last. Another has lately been appointed. Of the Relief congregation, I cannot give any accurate account.

The total number of families attending the Established church is about 232; of families attending the chapels of dissenters, 108. *

Education.—There are two teachers who are appointed by the magistrates, and have salaries from the burgh funds. The master of the grammar-school is allowed a good house for the accommodation of boarders, and L. 10 a-year of salary: from 16 scholars he receives L. 16 a-year. The boarders enter into a different calculation. The master of the English school has a salary of L. 28, and when the number of scholars is considerable, L. 10 additional for an assistant, but no house. His fees amount to betwixt L. 30 and L. 40 a-year. His fees as session-clerk are somewhat under L. 10 a-year. A female teacher is allowed L. 10 a-year by the burgh. The number of scholars attending the grammar-school is 18 day scholars, and 48 boarders. † In the three schools taught by females, the number of scholars at present is 87, making in all, the number of scholars at the day schools 491. In this list, those attending the evening classes are not included, as several of them are day-scholars. There is no parochial school, and considering the population of the parish, it may reasonably be inquired why provision is not made for such an establishment, as was done some years ago in Haddington and several other burghs. The grammar-school has long and deservedly been distinguished as a boarding establishment, and never more so than at present. There are no mortifications nor any funds for the education of the poor, who are taught at the expense of the kirk-session. For several years a Sabbath evening school has been taught in each of the two meeting-houses belonging to the Associate Synod: this school, however, is not limited to the children of any particular congregation. The present incumbent in the beginning of last summer began a Sabbath evening school with three assistants, which promises to do much good.

* When the heads of families attend different places of worship, they are not included in these enumerations. From a census taken by the elders in 1830, the number of individuals belonging to the different congregations was as follows:—

Number of grown up persons attending the Established church, 850; 1st Burgher congregation, formerly Anti-Burgher, 105; 2d Burgher congregation, 247; Relief congregation, 329; Episcopal meeting-house, 7.

† In the English school there are 81 scholars; and in three private schools the scholars amount to 257.

Poor.—In a populous parish, where no compulsory assessment is levied, and where the management of the poor devolves on the kirk-session, few duties fall to a clergyman which require greater prudence, caution, and patient investigation, than the application of the poors funds. Most of my brethren will concur with me in stating, that in the first two or three years of our incumbency, the persons who draw most freely from the session funds and the minister's purse are the least deserving objects, and it is only when taught by experience we become a little more discriminating in our charities.

In the oldest session record, where any mention is made of the distribution of money to the poor, the receipts from 23d April 1662 to 25th March 1663, were L. 62, 5s. Scots, and the disbursements L. 137, 8s. Scots; and there was a debt due by the kirk-session of L. 232, 4s. From that date to the present time, there has been a number of regular poor on the list. In 1699, the sum of L. 88 Scots, and a few months afterwards L. 95, were distributed among 74 "clamant" poor. In 1733, the collection at the dispensation of the Sacrament was L. 91, 17s. Scots; and on that occasion, and on many others both before and after that date, the common beggars received nearly the same allowance as the regular poor. Eight years before that date, in 1725, there were 18 regular poor on the list, and 15 who occasionally received relief. And a meeting of the heritors and kirk-session "appoint that any of the said 33 poor persons who shall apply to the minister, and shall be furnished with certificates under his hand for charity, are to be served by the householders within the paroch, according to their several abilities, once a-week, and discharges the inhabitants of the paroch to serve any others."* That we may compare the state of the poors' funds a hundred years ago with the present expenditure, it may be farther stated, that from July 1732 to August 1739, the receipts were L. 3156, 17s. Scots, and the disbursements L. 3086, 19s. The maintenance of an orphan child in 1733 was L. 2 Sterling, and 10s. for clothing; at present, the common allowance is 2s. 6d. a-week. A coffin for a pauper, paid by the kirk-session, cost 4s. Sterling. The average allowance to a regular pauper seems to have been 8d. a fortnight. For many years previous to 1760, from L. 60 to L. 90 Scots was the collection made at the sacrament; from that time till the end of the century, about L. 8 Sterling. At present, the number of poor on the roll is 28; of these 7 are men, and the remaining 21 women. The allowance

* Session Records. •

varies from 1s. to 3s. 6d. a-week. In the return made lately by the writer of this article to Parliament, the average allowance for 1832 was 1s. 10½d. a-week. In addition to the above, there are 19 orphan children on the list, and one insane female lodged at the rate of L. 18 a-year. The whole annual expenditure, calculating for seven years, is L. 272.* There has for some years been rather a reduction than an increase. No allowance is made to persons out of employment, if able to work; but if, from bad health, they cannot earn a subsistence, parochial relief is given without the session taking any cognizance of their substance. A different system prevails in England; and the writer of this article has known the church-wardens dispose of a poor man's cow before they granted him relief in his illness; the consequence of which was, that no distinction being thus made between provident and improvident habits, he continued a pauper for life.

The poor are supported by the collections at the church doors, averaging L. 62 a-year,—by the interest of L. 700,—by mortcloth money, and the voluntary contribution of the heritors, paid according to the valuation of their lands. Though they contribute about two-thirds of the whole money expended on the poor, and though only three paupers belong to the landward part of the parish, the moderator of the kirk-session, at the half yearly meetings, has only to state how much money is required, and it is cheerfully granted, with the exception of one individual, whose contribution would be about L. 2 a-year, but who has long refused to pay.†

* In this sum are included clothing and education for several of the children,—the salaries of the treasurer and kirk officer,—the fees of the synod and presbytery clerks, &c.

† The most objectionable part of the present system of managing the poor is the *law of settlement*, the bad effects of which are forcibly experienced in this parish. With the exception of two or three small villages, there is no other place than the county town to which a labouring man can resort, when, by reason of bodily infirmities or advancing old age, he is not equal to the duties of an able-bodied man. As there are no supernumerary cottages in the country parishes, he must give up his house to his successor, and betake himself to the burgh, where lodgings of all descriptions can be procured. If he can struggle on for three years by jobbing, working on the public roads, or by living on the savings of his industry, without applying for relief to the parish in which his best years were spent, and which was benefited by his labour, when he can work no longer, or his means are exhausted, a settlement for himself, or, in the event of his death, for his widow, is thus obtained in this parish. We are thus burdened not with the poor either of the town or the landward part of the parish, but by many from all the neighbouring country parishes. This was an evil so much felt so far back as 1749, that “the session, considering that there are several poor old people come into this place and parish who likely will prove burdensome to the poors' box, and who are not clothed with sufficient testimonials, do therefore appoint the elders in their several bounds to take strict notice of such, and apply to the magistrates for their concurrence to remove them out of the place, unless they produce sufficient testimonials from their respective parishes to which they belong, and from whence they come, that they are willing to receive them back as soon as they prove troublesome and burdensome to this place.”† The resolutions and enactments of the

† Session Record.

In the application of money to the poor, it may be mentioned, that the collections made at the administration of the Lord's Supper, now twice a-year, amounting to about L. 15 or L. 16, are given, not as in former times, doubling the fortnight's allowance, to the regular paupers, but are disposed of by giving two-thirds of the collections to communicants at the sacrament, who are not on the poors' list, and the remainder to the regular poor who are members of the church.

In treating of the poors' laws, it is not unusual to prognosticate that Scotland will soon be in the same condition as England. No opinion can be more erroneous, as no Scotch act of Parliament bears any resemblance to the 43d of Elizabeth, as it is now interpreted and acted upon. The poor in Scotland are under the management of the heritors and kirk-session; in England, a magistrate in a distant part of the county can award what relief he thinks necessary, without knowing the merits of the case, till the Quarter Sessions are held.

If the funds of the poor are administered with a steady and judicious hand, there is no great prospect of any considerable increase of expenditure, unless the population should be greatly augmented. The utmost caution, however, should be observed in admitting poor persons on the permanent roll, for then it is almost impossible to strike them off. All donations or legacies left to the poor of any parish ought to be strictly applied to them, and not given indiscriminately to new incomers who have not gained a settlement, or to paupers belonging to other parishes. To extend such charities equally to all, is to hold out a premium and encouragement for the poor to settle in places to which they do not belong, and to consume those resources which should be applied to the native population.

Inns, &c.—The number of inns in the burgh is 6, of taverns 7, and of grocers' shops where spirits are sold, 17. There are 3 breweries. The reduction of the duties on whisky was defended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the plea of underselling the smuggler, and thus putting a stop to illicit distillation. It may reasonably be questioned if the country has gained by the change in the excise laws. No doubt, smuggling supported a lawless race of men who set order and good government at defiance; but it ought to be remembered that illicit distillation was confined

kirk-session were excellent, but unfortunately neither the magistrates of this burgh nor any other magistrates can enforce them. The grievance is severely felt, but we cannot remedy it. A legislative enactment that would extend the law of settlement to five or rather to seven consecutive years of residence, would confer a great benefit on towns surrounded by parishes where the work of depopulation is going forward, and would thus in a great measure equalize the burden of supporting the poor.

to certain districts, and its demoralizing influence was not generally felt. Cheap whisky, from the licensed distiller, is vended through the *whole* country, and many districts, formerly strangers to the small still, and distinguished for the order and sobriety of the inhabitants, now suffer from its baneful effects. Private vices have, in the fullest sense of the word, been made for the time to produce, not public benefits, but an increased revenue, as if any state could be benefited by the corruption and moral degradation of its inhabitants. The consumption of whisky by the drunkard, may for a while swell the returns of the excise, but eventually, the prosperity and the welfare of the country must suffer from his unproductive labour.

Banks.—A branch of the British Linen Company's Bank was established some years ago in the burgh. There are two friendly societies,—a savings' bank,—a curling and coursing club. The royal archers occasionally visit the place. Poaching is very little known. Salmon are killed at all seasons when found in the river; but unless an information is lodged with the sheriff-substitute or the justices of the peace, no notice is taken of the trespassers in *close* time. The *leistering* of salmon may be considered a kind of amusement, requiring much skill and address, and affords a good recreation for those of sedentary habits; and so far from leading, like poaching in game, to corruption of morals, many who engage in it, are as respectable and well-behaved young men as the burgh contains.

Fairs.—The charter granted by James the Sixth, confirmed to the burgesses the right of holding “three free fairs thrice in the year,” two of which were to be continued for the space of forty-eight hours, and the third to last no less than eight days, “according to use and wont.” Four fairs are now held annually for hiring servants, and the sale of cattle and sheep, but one day is found quite sufficient for transacting all the business of each fair.

Fuel.—There is very little *peat-moss* in the parish, and coals form the chief article of fuel. They are brought from Mid-Lothian, and cost about 8d. or 9d. the cwt.

Prison.—A list of the commitments for the last six years was prepared; but as many of these were for offences of a trifling nature, such as being a vagrant, and suffering one night's confinement, it is unnecessary to swell these pages with the detail. The average number of commitments for the county for the last six years amount to about 28 a-year.

March 1834.

PARISH OF INNERLEITHEN.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES PATE, MINISTER.

THE REV. PATRICK BOOTH, ASSISTANT MINISTER.

Boundaries.—THE parish of Innerleithen is of a triangular figure, the base of which rests on the river Tweed, while the opposite angle falls on that ridge of mountains which bounds the prospect from Edinburgh, towards the south, and is well known by the name of the Morfoot Hills. It here meets the parishes of Edlestone and Temple, and were lines drawn from this point, to form the other two sides, one of these would fall upon the Tweed to the west, two miles below Peebles, and the other, where it meets the parish of Stow on the east, five miles above the junction of the river Ettrick. The parish contains, according to Armstrong, only 27,587 English acres.

Topographical Appearances.—The group of mountains in this parish forms part of that chain which runs from south-west to north-east, through the pastoral districts of the south of Scotland, until it sinks into the German sea, near St Abb's Head. The highest summits of this range are found where Tweeddale and Annandale meet Selkirkshire,—Hartfell, White Coomb, and Loch Craig, being 2800 feet above the sea. The parish is intersected by several deep glens, each traversed by its crystal rivulet, tending towards the main river. The largest of these rivulets is called Leithen Water, and gives its name to the parish. The only level ground in the parish is the alluvial land along the banks of the river,—which in Scotland is called *holm* or *haugh*. This being formed during the course of centuries, by the overflowings of the river, is of a very rich soil, though in general more suited for permanent pasture than for tillage. The same kind of land to a lesser extent may likewise be found upon the Leithen for three or four miles above its junction with the Tweed. A narrow border of gravelly loam likewise skirts the foot of the hills. The valley of the Tweed in Peebles-shire, like most of the upland valleys in Scotland, having been originally a chain of lochs, the soil consists of rounded and

water-worn gravel, with the addition of the soil, which in process of time has fallen from the acclivities above. A great portion of these slopes has been cultivated, and probably was the first land cultivated by the aboriginal inhabitants,—what was formerly called *croft land*, being of this description.

Meteorology.—The clouds, surcharged with vapour, take the same course as the great valley of the Tweed, which here runs from south-west to north-east; and during summer, many showers that would be highly favourable to our gravelly soils, and steep hill sides, fall on the mountains and the heads of the glens, while there is little or no rain in the intermediate valley. It is partly from this cause, and partly from the open nature of the subsoil, that our arable ground suffers so often from drought, that it is commonly said Innerleithen and Caberstone would require a shower every day. The south-west winds often blow with great force, and, from a certain point between west and south-west, the wind has sometimes the violence of a tornado. There is a hill above the farm of William's Lea, composed of schistus, where the wind has been known to lift the slaty fragments, making them clatter fearfully in the air, as they came in contact with one another; and once, it is said, during a snow storm, a quantity of stones, some nearly half a ton in weight, were found scattered and dispersed over a space of a quarter of a mile. If this report be true, the phenomenon was probably the result of electrical agency.

Experience has shewn that rain may be expected, of longer or shorter continuance, about the 20th of June, the second week of August, and the middle of October. There is generally about ten days of dry fine weather in February, and ten days of cold dry east wind in the month of May. On the last two days of May, or the first two of June, it has been observed that there is either a gale of wind or frost. Three years out of four there is a severe frost, so late as greatly to hurt the apple blossom, and the more tender sorts of stone-fruit. In some seasons, however, and in favourable situations, peaches come to a good flavour on open walls.

From the nature of the climate, it may be inferred, that in some seasons there are violent snow-storms. It has been well ascertained, that the power a flock of sheep possesses of suffering hunger when the ground is covered with snow depends greatly upon their pasture in the preceding autumn, or more immediately upon the fat and tallow they may happen to carry at the time, the tallow and superabundant fat being absorbed by hunger, and appearing to serve

the same purpose to the sheep, in enabling them to bear the famine of a snowy winter, as the hump upon the back does to the camel, in empowering him to survive the still greater privations of the desert.

Diseases.—On this head it may only be remarked, that, about sixty or seventy years ago, ague or intermittent fever was, during the easterly winds of spring, very common in habitations that were situated near the level of the haughs, along the river to the eastward of the Leithen; but, from a cause not satisfactorily ascertained, it is now unknown.

Hydrography—Springs.—The mineral spring at Innerleithen has become of late years greatly frequented. It was formerly called the *Dow-well*, from the circumstance, that, long before the healing virtues of the water were discovered, pigeons from the neighbouring country resorted to it. Had it been known in ancient times as a medicinal water, without doubt the Roman Catholic clergy would have taken advantage of the fact, and dedicated it to some saint.

The well springs from the base of the Lee-pen, and is about 200 feet above the street of the village. The mountain appears to be composed of greywacke, clay-slate, and red felspar-porphry. Originally the water issued at one spring, and that in no great quantity. The ground about it was wet and miry, and on one side only there was a form or long bench, which was used by the aged and infirm, who resorted to the hill. Its celebrity, however, increased, and a few years ago, Lord Traquair, the proprietor of the village, erected a neat and commodious building at the mineral spring, with a verandah in front, from which the water is served out to the visitors.

In digging for the source of the spring (that the water might be obtained as free as possible from any connection with the surface,) it was found to branch into two streams of different strength. These were analysed in 1822 by Dr Fyfe, and a quart bottle of each was found to contain the following ingredients: 1st stream, 36 grains, viz. carbonate of magnesia, 5.3; muriate of lime, 9.5; muriate of soda, 21.2 = 36.—2d stream, 60.6 grains, viz. carbonate of magnesia, 10.2; muriate of lime 19.4; muriate of soda, 31. = 60.6. The large quantity of carbonate of magnesia (seven parts in 10,000 of water,) renders it probable that it must contain a quantity of carbonic acid sufficient to constitute an acidulous spring, in order to be capable of holding the earth in solution. These waters, which have now rendered Innerleithen a place of fashionable resort, have long been celebrated for the cure of old wounds, diseases of the eyes, and for relieving stomach and bilious complaints;

though these effects are no doubt partly attributable to the pure air and dry climate of the situation.

There is another well known spring in this parish, which probably was famous long before that of Innerleithen was even known. It is situated among the hills near the boundary of Mid-Lothian. Before roads were made through the interior of the country, the ancient road from Ettrick forest, Eskdale, and Teviotdale, towards Edinburgh, was carried up the Leithen, entering the parish of Heriot moor, by a deep and narrow defile called the *Dewar-Gill*. The spring now referred to bursts from the foot of the mountain, and affords a supply of the purest water in extraordinary profusion.

As there are few *bogs* * along the foot of our hills to serve as reservoirs for the rain, the water of our rivulets is of the most transparent purity.

Geology.—The great range of mountains formerly alluded to, of which Innerleithen forms a part, belongs to the *greywacke* formation. The strata, which are of *greywacke*, *greywacke-slate*, and *clay-slate*, range from S. W. to N. E., or nearly so. The dip is at various angles. Red and grey porphyries accompany the greywacke. They are of great thickness in some places; and these attending rocks are found in different places, all the way from about a mile west of the village to Hollylee, four miles to the eastward.

At Grieston, on the Traquair side of the Tweed, where a slate-quarry has been long wrought, beautiful red porphyry is found resting upon the slate. The mountain of Windlestrae-Law is cut by a glen on its south face called Priesthope, and the rock is laid bare for a considerable way. Here alternating strata of red and grey porphyry, gneiss, and granite, and flinty slate, are observed.† The grey porphyry is of a beautiful pure colour, mixed with many crystals of felspar, and of great hardness. The red porphyry is of all shades, from a brownish-yellow to a dark blood-red. The latter has often been sent to Edinburgh for curling-stones, as it is both extremely hard, and does not splinter, and takes a very fine polish.

Querns, or ancient hand-mills, have been found; and one, or

* By this word is meant those tracts of moist clay and peaty soil formerly covered with *Carices* and *Juncus articulatus*, that skirt the green hills of Dumfries and Selkirk-shires, and which, before they were begun to be drained with care and attention, retained the rain water, and from which it gradually flowed into the burns and rivulets, supplying them with water, holding in solution much decayed animal and vegetable matter. The draining of these bogs has neither benefited the sheep nor the salmon fishery.

† This stratified granite is mentioned by Professor Playfair in his illustrations of Hutton, as having been found by Sir James Hall and himself in Fasneth water, in the eastern declivity of the Lammermoor ridge; and he mentions also that it was found at Loch-Ken in Galloway. Windlestrae-Law lies in the direction of the strata between these two places.—Vide *Edinburgh Encycl. Article Selkirkshire*.

the remains of one, may still be seen in the neighbourhood, made of Aberdeen granite. Whether this may indicate that the Aberdonians of ancient times made a trade and profit of the stones on their moors, as at present, or whether it had been left by some retreating army, it is not easy to determine. It appears that the upper stone of these simple corn-mills, which was turned by a wooden peg in a hole near the edge, was always formed of rough mica-slate.

A quarry of large and thick slate, which was dressed for pavement, was once wrought at Hollylee; but the particular sort that was in demand, instead of rising with the acclivity of the hill, sunk downwards, so that it became impossible to work it, unless by actual mining. It was long, therefore, abandoned; but of late the present proprietor has, with admirable effect, used it again, along with Arbroath stone, in making tessellated pavement for the lobby and principal passages in his house.

A quarry of clay-slate for roofing was likewise wrought for many years below Thornylee, at the eastern boundary of the parish, but the workings were too near the river, so that there was a want of room for disposing of the *tirring* and refuse. Both slates and flags were moreover of inferior quality for pavement.

The mixture of gravel, not much water-worn, with ferruginous clay, which is called till, and is found over all the country, but never above the most recent alluvial deposits, was hardly to have been expected in the valley of the Tweed, where it is nearly a mile in width. But in driving the large beams that support the wooden bridge lately erected below Traquair house, so much opposition was met with from impenetrable matter, as to induce the belief that at no greater depth than six feet there was a bed of till.

There is a large accumulation of small rounded gravel and fine sand at the foot of the hill, called the *Curlee*. Some years ago a sand-pit was dug in it for the purpose of building and plastering. The sand appeared to have been deposited in layers, generally distinctly marked, and having an irregular waving appearance, as sand often has when left by the ebbing of an eddy tide upon a beach. Among the various strata, there was one consisting of the debris of coal. Taken altogether it distinctly indicates the agency of a large and deep body of water flowing with a current down the valley of the Tweed, and probably meeting with another flowing down the valley of the Leithen. But there is no coal in the course of either. This *coal-gravel*, therefore, could have been brought by

the waters of neither of these rivers. In Lothian the coal lies deep, and does not appear in the banks of the rivers. In Clydesdale it often crops out, and the small fragments we speak of resemble more what is met with in the western district.

Peat of a sufficient depth to be dug for fuel is found in great abundance around the sources of the Leithen, and in small extent on the top and southern declivities of Windlestrae-Law, which rises to the eastward of it; but it is so distant from the village and the farm-houses along the Tweed, that they find coal, although brought twenty miles from Lothian, to be greatly cheaper.

The tops of the higher mountains are covered with moss or peat of greater or less depth. On the ridges below the summits, its depth is often only a few inches, and of course it is less wet. On this there are tracts covered by *Nardus stricta*, *Juncus squarrosus*, and *Galium saxatile*. On the south-east side of Windlestrae-Law, among blocks of red porphyry, these plants are singularly luxuriant, and they are mixed with a species of *Agrostis* and *Anthoxanthum*. Every part of the latter plant is likewise greatly larger than on the banks of the river 1800 feet below. These plants always indicate the mossy soil on which they grow to be mixed with sand. Here it is probably derived from the porphyry.

Zoology.—In the year 1890, on the glen heads below the tract of sheep-pasture, we have noticed the larva of a species of the large long-legged *Tipula* devouring the herbage upon the hill sides, cutting the plants above the roots, and just before they assume the green colour. The swaird adhering together by the intermingled mosses could have been rolled up like blanket.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The land-owners in the order of the valuation of their properties are as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---------|----|----|
| Sir James G. Suttie, | - | - | - | L. 2575 | 7 | 5 |
| James Ballantyne, Hollylee, | - | - | - | 1900 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Horsburgh of Horsburgh, | - | - | - | 1252 | 7 | 10 |
| Earl of Traquair, | - | - | - | 918 | 16 | 2 |
| R. N. Campbell of Kailzie, | - | - | - | 536 | 8 | 10 |
| Miss Innes of Thornilee, | - | - | - | 467 | 16 | 8 |
| William Stewart of Glen Ormiston, | - | - | - | 244 | 1 | 5 |
| William Eckford, Green Head of Innerleithen, | - | - | - | 9 | 0 | 0 |

L. 7298 18 4

* We have been assured from good authority, that, in the year 1762, the green hills around the heads of Ettrick and Yarrow were rendered completely brown by the ravages of a smooth light brown caterpillar with dull yellow stripes; and that forty years after, in 1802, a similar visitation took place. In that year countless flocks of crows and sea-fowl were seen for many days hastening to the banquet.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of the parish have been preserved, and are legible from the year 1660.

Antiquities.—The names of rivers and mountains, of slopes, burns, cleughs, and tower steads, in this parish are allowed to show that the inhabitants whom the present Gothic race drove out, spoke a dialect of the Celtic language, intermediate between that of the North Highlands and the Welsh, and that their successors retained many of their names of remarkable objects. *

Porras-hill, or Purves-hill, is a farm-steading placed on a rising ground, where a number of remarkable terraces descend to near the level of the river, about 200 yards long. The present road occupies the line of the lowest but one of these; three rise above it, all about eighteen feet broad. There is then a larger interval between the terraces, as if the upper series of them had been intended to be separated from the lower, but this space is not regular, for it is much wider at the one end than the other. Above this there are other three terraces approaching towards the brow of the declivity on which they have been formed, but none of them so parallel as those below. We abstain from offering any conjecture as to the purposes of these works.

Modern Buildings.—Several new houses have lately been built in the village for the accommodation of those who resort to the place for the benefit of the waters. The mansion-houses most worthy of notice in the parish are those of Mr Stewart of Glen Ormiston, and Mr Ballantyne of Hollylee. A beautiful wooden bridge was some time ago erected under the superintendence, and according to a plan, of Mr Jardine civil-engineer. It displays much scientific art in the design and execution.

III.—POPULATION.

There are no documents by which we could form any estimate of the population before Dr Webster's report in 1755. The earliest parish registers give merely an account of marriages, and probably only a part of these.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The population in 1755, according to Dr Webster, was | 559 |
| By the last Statistical Account, | 560 |
| In 1801, | 609 |
| 1811, | 677 |
| 1821, | 705 |
| 1831, | 810 |

The increasing celebrity of the mineral spring may account for the progressive increase of the population; and this might be supposed to be the chief cause, had not the increase in the village been

* Notices of several hill-forts, and towers, &c. in the parish will be found in the original MS.

only 59, while in the country it has been 141. The temporary lodgers in the village during summer are of course not included in the above state of the population. We are unable to assign any satisfactory reason for the increase,—the manufactory in the parish having employed more hands when the last account was written than it does at present, and the quantity of land in tillage being more now than it was then.

The number of persons residing in the village at this time, not including summer lodgers, is 447; in the country, 363.

It is important to add, that the number of lodgers in the village for the benefit of the waters in the course of the summer 1832 was no less than 1438.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | - | - | 160 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | - | - | 59 |
| in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | - | - | 33 |
| other families, | - | - | - | - | - | 68 |
| 2. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years, | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| of deaths, | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| of marriages, | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| 3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age, | - | - | - | - | - | 346 |
| upwards of 70, | - | - | - | - | - | 24 |

There are three gentlemen, all of moderate fortune, resident in the parish, and on their own lands.

The number of proprietors of land is 8; and the property of only one of these is below L. 50 a-year.

Amusements of the People.—The people in this parish have been always much addicted to athletic exercises and games, which have probably been much encouraged by the dry soil and the climate, and by the beautiful village green. The latter, though considered as the common property of the village, has been appropriated, feued, and built upon. The fondness of the young men of the village for the sports of the place attracted the attention of the visitors, and induced them often to participate. The gay loungers at the watering-place came habitually to take an interest in the games; and in 1827 forty-two noblemen, knights, and gentlemen joined in instituting an annual competition for prizes in all gymnastic exercises; an annual sum being subscribed for defraying the expenses. The records of the St Ronan's Club (as it is called) show that the young men of the village have carried off their share at least of the honours awarded.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The extent of land that bears the marks of having been occasionally in tillage may be fully 2400

acres. Yet, if we except two farms that have almost wholly been brought into regular cultivation within the last ten or fifteen years, there is not such a thing as an arable farm in the parish. They are all sheep-farms, with arable land attached to them. Thirty years ago, when they were let on lease, nothing was said about the value per acre: it was the sheep which the farm could contain that were valued. The number of acres which remain constantly in sheep-pasture is 25,700. The number of acres that are at present uninclosed sheep-pasture, and that might be cultivated, may perhaps amount to 1500, or somewhat more; but whether any thing like this extent could, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land, may be reasonably doubted. There are about 500 acres of planted wood; and probably 30 acres of brushwood, consisting of hazel and birch chiefly, intermixed with dwarfish specimens of the trees and shrubs enumerated as indigenious. The trees generally planted now are larch, oak, ash, and elm.

Rent of Land.—As the arable land in the parish is never let by the acre, the value of it is a somewhat difficult matter to settle. We are inclined to state the average rent at 23s. per acre, and the produce at L. 3, 9s. 6d. The average rent of the sheep-pasture is nearly 2s. 7½d. per acre; the average produce 4s. 8d.

As the sheep-pasture has sometimes no arable ground attached to it, the value is more easily determined; the average of the uncultivated land is nearly 4s. 3d. per sheep's grass; on cultivated land 9s.; and an ox or cow L. 3, 10s.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of labour of a man throughout the year is 1s. 8d. per day; and of a woman for hoeing turnips, hay-making, and barn-work in winter, 10d.

Breeds of Live Stock.—The old breed of cattle in Tweeddale was light-bodied and long-legged, with rather long up-turned horns, and spotted brown, black, or white. About forty or fifty years ago this breed was greatly improved by the produce of an Alderney bull and two queys, that were brought into the country by the late Earl of Traquair. Of late years, well-bred bulls from Northumberland are annually procured by some of the principal farmers; and consequently, allowing for the bareness of our pasture, the breed of cattle is every year drawing nearer to that of the shires of Selkirk and Roxburgh, and perhaps might be in some risk of becoming in general too heavy for the district.

The breed of sheep is the black-faced and Cheviot, both greatly

improved of late, excepting in the quality of the wool,* which is now much coarser.

It may be added, that the breeds of sheep, cattle, and horses have received great benefit from the Selkirkshire Pastoral Society, instituted by Lord Napier about ten years ago, and of which our resident proprietors and principal farmers are members.

Quantity of Live Stock.—The number of cattle is 383; horses 80; sheep, 16,040; goats, 50.

Husbandry.—The state of farm-buildings and enclosures is good; and perhaps the extent of the former is greater than has ever yet been found quite necessary. Leases are of all sorts, according to the pleasure of the parties.

Improvements.—The only great improvement in the parish has been effected by Mr Stewart of Ormiston, or Glen-Ormiston. By the most excellent system of cultivation, he has raised the value of his property, so that the annual return or rent in pounds Sterling is much more than double the valuation in pounds Scottish; and that without including the annual value of more than 200 acres in very thriving plantations,—a fact very rarely paralleled in the records of the agriculture of this country.

Produce.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| The average amount of gross produce yearly raised from the arable land may be nearly | L. 8498 0 0 |
| The average return of grain crops being, wheat, 26 bushels per imperial acre; barley, 36 do.; oats, 36 do.; pease, 24 do. | |
| From sheep, | 6215 0 0 |
| | <hr/> L. 14,653 0 0 |

The value of the produce of cattle and horses is included, as pasture, turnips, hay; and those are all valued per acre.

Manufactures.—A large building for a woollen manufactory was erected about forty years ago by a Mr Brodie, a native of Traquair. He carried on the works at his own risk for several years. At his death the manufactory was let, and has since been in the hands of several tenants. At present 50 people are employed in it, and 2500 stones of wool are wrought in it yearly. The people work ten hours a-day. Weavers are paid per week, 14s.; slubbers, 14s.; piecers, 3s.; shawl-plaiters, 4s.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

• *Market-Town and Means of Communication.*—Peebles is the

* It seems now to be fully ascertained that fine wool cannot be raised in this country with profit—fat mutton and fine wool in successive generations of sheep appearing to be incompatible with each other by some law of nature.

nearest market-town, and is distant about six miles. In the summer season there is a one-horse chaise daily, and two daily coaches from the parish to Edinburgh.

The length of the toll-road down the Tweed is ten miles; and from Tweed to the source of the Leithen, is above nine miles. In summer, there is a daily conveyance to and from Glasgow and Kelso, which passes through the village.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church could not well be better situated for the convenience of the whole parish. It is a neat small building, containing seats for above 350 people. It was built in 1786, and is in comfortable repair. The manse was built about 1780. The glebe consists of 12 imperial acres, and is worth about L. 20 of yearly rent. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, and L. 100 Scots for communion elements, having been augmented in the year 1821.* Its average amount for the last seven years has been, exclusive of the allowance for communion elements, L. 234, 6s. The average number of communicants is about 264.

The dissenters in this parish are very few: fewer perhaps than in any parish of the same size in this part of the country.

Education.—There is no school but one in the parish. It is parochial. The schoolmaster employs an assistant, and teaches the ordinary branches and Latin. His salary is the maximum. The school wages are, for reading English, per quarter, 2s. 6d.; for writing, arithmetic, &c. 3s. 6d.; for Latin, 5s.: but the actual amount received will probably not exceed L. 40. There are no persons in the parish above ten years of age who cannot read and write.

Library.—There is a circulating library in the parish, and a reading-room attached to it.

Friendly Society.—A friendly society was instituted in 1808 by the influence of the late Mr Nicol, minister of Traquair, and on such sound principles, that its funds have been gradually increasing. There are 100 members.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The collections in the church average about L. 21, 10s. a-year, and the assessment upon the heritors and tenants amounts to about L. 80. The number of poor is 13, and the average allowance to each 2s. 2d. per week, besides house rent to several of them, and L. 5 for medical advice. The people have not now the same aversion as formerly to seek relief from those funds.

* The stipend was augmented in 1821; but unexpectedly not in the same ratio as that of the minister of Traquair,—which was augmented about the same time.

Inns.—There are three inns in the village ; two of them large and commodious,—each having an ordinary or public table during the spring and summer seasons.

Fuel.—Except among the shepherds living in the heads of the *hopes* and *glens*, who use peats, the fuel chiefly depended upon by the inhabitants is coal from Lothian. The nearest is 16 miles distant. But a new road up the Leithen is now making, and will be completed next summer ; by which the conveyance of coal will be facilitated, and the expense diminished.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Plantations of spruce and Scottish fir in the uplands, for enclosures to the sheep, would be a great improvement.

There is no soil in the parish so fitted for becoming rich pasture as the haughs in the valley of the Tweed. But instead of *water-dikes*, as they are called, reared sometimes at great expense along the margin of the stream, perhaps it were better that every obstruction was removed from the river while in flood, and the muddy waters encouraged to float over and top-dress these lands when laid into pasture. Experience has often shown, that no process of manuring is so cheap and so enriching. Besides, this would enable the proprietor or tenant to bestow his attention and manure upon the accessible slopes of the hills, which, in course of time, it may be found worth while to cultivate.

March 1834.

PARISH OF TRAQUAIR.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES CAMPBELL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish lies on the south bank of the river Tweed, and on the eastern border of the county of Peebles, where it unites with the county of Selkirk. The ancient name of the parish, or rather perhaps of the church, was St. Bryde's; hence it is supposed to have been erected by the Douglasses of Blackhouse, in the neighbouring parish of Yarrow, and dedicated by them to their family saint. In 1674, the church and parish of Kailzie, (*Anglice*, the wood,) formerly spelled and still vulgarly pronounced Keila, was, through the instrumentality of the noble family of Traquair, who were the patrons of that parish, and of the Archbishop of Glasgow, in whose diocese Traquair lay, in spite of the strong opposition of the presbytery, and to the manifest disadvantage of the parish, suppressed; and about two-thirds of it, namely, all that lay south of the Tweed, were annexed to the church of St. Bryde's,—thus forming the present parish of Traquair. From two charters granted to the monks of Melrose, one by David I. and the other by Malcolm, both kings of Scotland, it would appear, that “all the fruits, and pasture, and timber of the forest of Traquair” were assigned, among many others, for the support of that splendid and princely establishment. The word is variously spelled, *Traquar** and *Trackwhare*,† and is considered to be a contraction for Strath or Track Quair; meaning, according to one, Sheep Strath; to others, the Strath of the Herons: and to a third, the Strath of the Winding Burn.‡ It must be allowed, however, that the strath, if it deserves the name, is very narrow; although, when viewed from

* “In a charter by Robert Duke of Albany, in favour of William Watson, son to William Watson of Cranston, containing a grant of the lands of Traquair, &c. dated at Edinburgh anno 1409, it is spelt Traquar.”—Old Statistical Account.

† In the records of the Court of Justiciary, of date 25th June 1557, as quoted by Sir Walter Scott in his notes to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, we find “Alexander Stuart, uncle to the Laird of Trakwhare.”

‡ Winding Burn.—See Chalmers' *Caledonia*, article Traquair.

a distance, and particularly from a station on the northern bank of the Tweed, it has the appearance of a considerable valley,—the hills rising very gradually, in comparison with the neighbouring mountains, from the mouth of the Quair along its banks, as far as visible from the station indicated; and it may be taken as a pretty strong corroboration of this meaning of the prefix *Tra*, that farther up the stream, where the strath is much narrower, it is there called The Glen.

The greatest length of the parish in a straight line from east to west is probably not quite eight miles, and its greatest breadth, being from north-east to south-west along the banks of the Quair, scarcely amounts to five miles. It is divided from the parish of Innerleithen on the north by the river Tweed; it marches with the parish of Peebles on the west for about a mile; and on every other side is bounded by the parish of Yarrow or the Forest in Selkirkshire. One narrow stripe of that parish and county, indeed, completely divides the ancient parish of Kailzie from that of Traquair. Another point of it comes within 200 yards of the church, stretching into the very centre of the parish, and reaching within a mile of the Tweed, its northern boundary; and a third point of the same parish very nearly cuts off the eastern wing of Traquair from its centre. On this account, the figure of the parish is wholly undefinable, and its extent in square miles not easily computed. According to Armstrong, it contains 17,290 acres, and may therefore extend to nearly 30 square miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface of the parish is generally mountainous; and being situated on the south bank of the Tweed, and its boundaries on every other side being almost invariably the highest ridge of these mountains, it consequently slopes downwards towards that river, and faces the north; hence arises in some measure the heathy and dark colour of its surface. The valleys on the banks of the Tweed are not very extensive, and vary in elevation above the level of the sea from nearly 400 to about 500 feet. The hills in general are steep and lumpish, but not rocky or precipitous, thus affording a dry and sound, but bare sheep-pasture; wholly divested of caves or caverns, or any thing approaching to the wild or the picturesque, if we except Glendean's banks, "truly a frightful chasm," extending probably three quarters of a mile in length, and rising on either hand in noble precipices several hundred feet in elevation. Minchmoor is described as being "a large and spreading mountain 2285 feet above the sea's flow;" and

Gumscleugh, one of the stations of the trigonometrical survey of Britain, is considered 200 feet higher. Both these mountains, Minchmoor, lying east, and Gumscleugh west of the church, are nearly equally divided between Traquair and Yarrow, the highest ridge, or "the shed of the waters," being the line of division between the parishes. The church is generally said to be on the same level as the cross of Peebles, or about 500 feet in elevation.

Meteorology.—As no regular accounts of the meteorology of this district have ever been kept, that point must be passed over with the remark, that the air of this parish is pure and keen, and hence very destructive to those subject to pulmonary complaints. It is, however, not very damp,—the higher mountains to the south and west, from whence the more prevailing and boisterous winds blow, sheltering it at once from their severity, and from those deluges of rain which fall, especially in more westerly districts. Still, from the generally impervious nature of the subsoil, the damp arising from evaporation is considerable. It may also be stated, that as the old parish of St. Bryde's, or, as the strath towards the mouth of the Quair is more familiarly termed, "the parishen," lies embosomed among hills, it is equally free in general from the piercing cold and fogs of the easterly winds. The same remark applies equally to both the other divisions of the parish to the east and west, and confirms generally an observation which has been made on this district, that the *ends* of the mountains point towards the Tweed, and their *sides* extend inland, if we may so express it, along the banks of the burns and waters that are its tributaries. Hence the appearance which all travellers notice in passing along the banks of that river in this district of Tweeddale, of its being almost continually land-locked; hence, too, the extreme dimensions of the parish in a straight line give no adequate idea of the real distance of its boundaries to the traveller; and hence, finally, the generally snug situation of its farm-houses and hamlets, in the bosom of the straths or dells of its mountain streams, which fall in pretty nearly at right angles to the Tweed. Only two or three of the farm-houses of this parish stand on the promontory or end of the hills, and thus form as it were the connecting link between the contiguous straths.

Hydrography.—This parish is remarkably devoid of any thing interesting under the head of hydrography. There is not a lake or cascade in its whole extent. It does not possess a single spring of any celebrity, if St. Bryde's Well, in the glebe, the Cheese

Well, on Minchmoor, and the Lady's Well, (our Lady's Well?) on the estate of Kailzie, be excepted; the waters of all which are pure and limpid, and equally fitted for household purposes. Why the first received the name, or was put under the protection of a saint, is not known, unless it was, that, being near the church, and on the side of a public road, the weary traveller, and the church-going population, might be reminded, on quenching their thirst at its fountain, of that "fountain which has been opened in Israel," and of that "stream that maketh glad the city of our God." *

Streams.—This parish is watered by some ten or a dozen streams, of which the Quair is the only one dignified by the name of The Water, as it alone has any thing like tributaries. Its whole course, however, is not above six miles; but in that course it receives the waters of five or six small streams, two of which, namely, Glengaber or Fingland, and Glenlude, or New-halls burns, are each of them nearly equal to itself in size and length of course. Kirkburn waters, the ancient parish of Kailzie, and the Bold and Plora burns have their source near the Cheese Well, and flow into the Tweed towards the eastern boundary of the parish. Fan (Fawn?) burn, or, according to Dr Pennecuik, Taf-burn, divides in one part the parishes of Yarrow and Kailzie.

Geology.—The most common rocks found in the parish are those generally called *whin* (greywacke;) some of a finer, and others of a coarser grain. A considerable quantity of slate also occurs; but only one small quarry of it is wrought, and it is now found to bear so ill the changes of the weather, that even the noble proprietor of it frequently uses slate from Wales for the purpose of roofing. A dike or vein of porphyry crosses the ridges of some of the hills in this and the neighbouring parishes, and is highly esteemed for the curling-stones which it affords. Of the different ores mentioned in the former Statistical Account, no traces are now found; and it is supposed by many that they had been brought hither either by the workmen employed, or that they were the remnants of ore that had been carried to this quarter to be smelted in the then "forest of Traquair." At all events, "the mines" have long been forsaken as worse than unprofitable.

Zoology.—In the department of zoology, this parish appears to be rather more distinguished for the want of some species of the

* It is said that the Cheese Well was so named from the circumstance of the passengers dropping into it a bit of cheese for the use of the fairies.

more common animals, than for its possession of those that are more rare. "The largest kind of raven, and the true hunting hawk, still annually hatch their young in Glendean's banks;" but the common magpie, and the far more interesting laverock or lark, are exceedingly scarce. The present writer has not observed above two or three pairs of the former in the space of thirteen years; and has not been regaled above once or twice in the same time with the song of the latter.

Botany.—The knout or cloud-berry is said to be the only plant at all rare observed in the parish. Our forests have disappeared, but the present proprietors are anxiously endeavouring to restore them in the form of plantations. Almost every sort of fir and of forest timber has been planted; but it would appear as if, of the latter, the ash and beech, and, perhaps, the elm and plane, are the most congenial to the soil and climate. A few very favourable specimens of all these are now growing in the churchyard and immediate neighbourhood; and there is, at least, one very fine tree of the silver fir species, in the grounds of Traquair House. "The bush aboon Traquair" is now reduced to four miserable birch trees; and such are the chances and changes of the times, that the field in which they grow,—the once famed scene of love and poetry,—is now very generally termed *the hospital*, from the circumstance of its having been reserved, at one time, as the field into which the ailing of the flock and of the herd were driven for pasture.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—"Mr Borthwick, in his Feudal Dignities, mentions Sarah of the Glen, Peebles-shire, amongst the ladies who swore allegiance to Edward I. of England in 1296." Tradition affirms that Captain Porteous, so celebrated for giving the name to the mob in Edinburgh in 1736, was born at Easter Glen, in this parish. *

Traquair House was the first place where the famous Marquis of Montrose rested the night after the battle of Philiphaugh. Hume the historian affirms that he had reason to expect the assistance of the then Earl of Traquair; and tradition adds, that his Lordship mounted, on the morning of the day of the battle, the 13th September 1645,—his blacksmith carrying a bag of gold for the use of the Marquis. In the meantime, before they reached the

* It is said that Porteous, when a boy, having killed the favourite hen of an old woman who then resided on the neighbouring farm of Fethan, she, in her wrath, "*wished* that there might be as many folk at his death as there were feathers on her poor chucky."

camp, the battle was fought, and on descending Minchmoor into the lovely vale of Yarrow, they met the dragoons flying in all directions. Instead of taking the direct route back, they were forced, along with the crowd, up the banks of the stream, and on passing the farm or castle of Tinnis, the blacksmith threw the bag of gold into the draw-well of the place. Often has the well been searched for the treasure, but as often in vain. *

Maps, &c.—It is believed that each landed proprietor in the parish has a separate map and plan of his own estate. A few paintings, and, we doubt not, many private documents, connected more especially with the history of the family, and of the Lord Treasurer of Scotland in particular, are to be found in the possession of the noble family of Traquair.

Eminent Characters.—This Lord Treasurer, and Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1639, is certainly the most eminent character connected with this parish; but as his life has long become matter of general history, it would be useless to do more than simply allude to it here. It may be added as a circumstance of merely local interest, that he cut a new course for the river Tweed for nearly two miles, to carry it away from under the battlements of his castle.

Mr Brodie, ironmaster, late of Carey Street, London, of Calcut, in the county of Salop, and of Temple Bar, in this county, of whom honourable mention is made in the former Statistical Account, was a native of this parish. When he left Scotland, unlike most Scotsmen, he was very ill educated, and to his latest day could with difficulty sign his own name. He had only his "har'st fee," amounting to 17s. 6d. in his pocket, and the rudiments of his trade as blacksmith, with which to begin the world; but by his own genius, or, as some pretend, by purchasing from an Italian the plan of register-stoves, he accumulated a fortune of nearly half a million. The only monuments of him now remaining in the parish are a

* Such traditions, however, are not always nor altogether void of foundation, as will appear from the following anecdotes: When the author of that most lovely of almost all modern pastorals, "Lucy's Flitten,"—a song, the locality of which is feignedly fixed at the Glen,—was beginning his extensive improvements on the farm of Traquair-know, which he then rented, he set about draining a moss into which it was said large quantities of silver plate had been thrown, which belonged to persons who had died of the plague. During the operation, some half dozen *pruiter* plates of no great value were found; and a pint stoup of a form and a quality of that metal so rich, that a tinker to whom it was sold, some years afterwards returned very anxiously inquiring for more of the same kind. Another tradition, said to be found in the *Scot's Chronicles*, says that there is a bull's hide full of gold lying concealed some where between St. Bryde's Well and Allasprain; and several coins have been found from time to time in that locality.

marble slab on the wall of the church, and a Bible which he presented to the pulpit in 1777. He was a man of great respectability of character, anxious to do good in his native place, and he did so while he lived; but, either from his own defective education, or from calculating too securely on a longer life, he did nothing to keep up his remembrance among us after his death. It ought in justice to be added, that it is said he offered to send cast iron to Leith, free of all expense, with which to erect a bridge across the Tweed in this neighbourhood, but the offer, for some reason, was not accepted.

Land-owners.—The only land-owners in the parish are his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, who possesses a small part of only one farm; the Right Honourable the Earl of Traquair, to whom belong perhaps three-fourths of the whole parish; and Miss Williamson of Cardrona, Robert Nutter Campbell of Kailzie, and William Allan of the Glen, among whom the remainder is divided in portions nearly equal. The estates of Traquair and Cardrona have long been in the possession of the present families. That belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch was purchased from an old family of the name of Cassie, above forty years ago. The other two estates, till about the same period, were more frequently in the market. It is most devoutly to be wished, however, and there is no prospect to the contrary at present, that no change among these proprietors may take place for a long time, as justice compels the declaration, that heritors more anxious for the good of the parish and of their tenantry, in every sense of the word, cannot be found. Whatever is proposed to them for the comfort of the minister, the schoolmaster, or the poor, or for promoting the spiritual and temporal interests of the people at large, is cheerfully carried into effect, whatever may be the expense. A few years ago they allowed the then schoolmaster, who had held that office for nearly sixty years, to retire on his full salary, and provided an additional one of L. 30 for an assistant. They erected one of the neatest and most comfortable school-rooms in the neighbourhood, surrounding it with a shrubbery; they also erected coach-houses, stables, and private rooms for the accommodation of the church-going population; and when the present incumbent was entitled by law to apply for an augmentation of stipend, they appeared in Court pleading not against, but for the augmentation.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers reach back only to the Revolution; the Episcopalian clergyman, who was then de-

posed for drunkenness, and for acting as factor to a neighbouring proprietor, having refused to give up either them or the plate belonging to the church. They are exceedingly defective, especially for the last sixty years. With regard to mere sessional records, it seems now to be pretty generally allowed, that except in very aggravated cases, or in those which must be brought before higher courts, it hardly consists with that "charity which rejoiceth not in iniquity," to record the name of every one who may have been "overtaken in a fault," and thus to set him up for ever on the pillory, as it were, to the scorn and laughter of future generations. As to the other records of the session, many are not only unwilling but unable to pay for the registering of births or marriages, from which they may never derive any benefit; and certainly it would be harsh to compel the poor so to do, who have generally more than enough of indispensable outlay on such occasions.* In the records of this parish, however, there are two or three cases of some interest mentioned, as showing the state of the times in former ages, and especially after the revolution. There is the case of a woman in 1694 charged with having burnt the Bible, lest it should be a witness against her in the great day of accounts; another of a man in 1696 for having consulted "a wise man" in Carington parish, respecting some money which he said had been stolen from him; and in a stray paper found in the parish, there is a very serious but amusing account given of the settlement of a minister in this parish before the restoration of patronage, by the interference of the principal heritor, a Catholic, with the elders who lived on his estate. And finally, a tradition is still prevalent, and it is confirmed in many points by the records of presbytery, of the miserable death of two women who had accused a minister of the parish of gross scandal, which induced him, though innocent, to give up his charge, that "the name of God and his doctrine might not be blasphemed."

It may not be out of place here to remark, that this district was not much harassed during the dreadful times of the Covenant. "A conventicle" was on one occasion held at the Glen, partly that the

* Would it not be sufficient for every purpose either of state or of the session, to have a law passed compelling all kirk-sessions to have every birth and baptism, marriage, death, and burial in their respective parishes, recorded by the session-clerk of the parish in which they take place, by a penalty to be recovered from the members of the kirk-session, by any person who can prove that he requested the record to be made, if not executed within one month or less after the time of such request being made: these records to be kept gratis, but a fee to be charged on every extract that is demanded?

Laird Veitch might have a child baptized by one of the ousted ministers, and that he had to remain "in hiding" for some time on this account. Tradition says that he spent his nights in his own house, and his days in a very small cave, scarcely sufficient to cover his person, where he was at last betrayed by the barking of a favourite dog that had followed him to the place of his concealment.

Antiquities.—The only antiquities worth mentioning are the camps referred to in the former Statistical Account, no longer, however, nor in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, ever called Chesters. The largest of these is above the present mansion-house of Cardrona, which word is said to mean "the camp or castle on the ridge," and certainly a name more appropriate to its situation could not have been invented. A very handsome Roman pot of bronze was a few years ago found in forming a drain on the lands of Kailzie, and a small battle-axe was picked up on the same estate. Both are now in the possession of its proprietor. In the summer of 1831, while workmen were employed in widening and levelling the public road leading towards Innerleithen, they discovered, in a gravel knoll, about three feet from the surface, a sepulchre or grave formed of flat stones, evidently of the same kind as are still found on the neighbouring Minchmoor, and containing an urn apparently composed of baked clay mingled with peat, filled with ashes or very fine mould. Another urn of the same materials was discovered a yard or two distant in the bare soil, but inverted and covering the fragments of human bones. The whole was destroyed before the present writer heard of it, and all he could pick up was a small piece of one of the urns, which, he was told, were nearly of the form of the common garden flower-pot, but partly figured on the exterior by heights and grooves in the way of a pine apple. It is said that another sepulchre of the very same kind was dug up near the same spot many years ago.

Modern Buildings.—In modern architecture there is nothing remarkable in the parish. Part of Traquair house is very ancient, but there is no record of its erection, (see Chalmers.) Two substantial mansion-houses have been built since the last Statistical Account was written,—one at Kailzie and the other at the Glen. The church and manse are both most comfortable. The school-room and schoolmaster's house are equally so; and the farm-houses in the parish are now all large, modern, respectable, and excellent habitations. Even the cottages are generally good of their kind.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in ancient times must have been much greater than at present, as the sites of several villages, on which not a vestige of a house now remains, are still pointed out. In the records of the presbytery of Peebles, too, under date the 5th August 1674, the number of communicants in the several parishes of the presbytery is mentioned, as the proportion by which these parishes were to contribute to the support of a bursar. In this record, Traquair is said to have had 360, and Kailzie, 100; two-thirds of which latter number now falling to be added to Traquair, would make the number of communicants in this parish about 430, whereas now they do not amount to one-half of this number. Even deducting, then, for the number who have dissented from the church since those days, the population must have been not much less than double of what it is now. It has again, however, increased considerably since the date of the last Statistical Account, if there was no mistake in the enumeration there given,—partly owing to the regular residence of the families of Traquair and Kailzie, but principally to the universal introduction of the turnip husbandry. The following table will show the amount of the population at different times, as nearly as can be made up:

| | | |
|-----------|---|------|
| In 1674, | - | 1000 |
| In 1755, | - | 651 |
| In 1794, | - | 446 |
| In 1801,* | - | 613 |
| In 1811, | - | 621 |
| In 1821, | - | 643 |
| In 1831, | - | 629 |

In this parish, there is scarcely any thing deserving the name of a village. Excepting about twenty families of tradesmen and labourers, several of whom are bound to keep “bondagers” for their houses, the population is wholly rural, and live around the farm-steading to which they are respectively attached.

For the last seven years, the yearly average of births does not exceed 20; of deaths, 9; and of marriages, 6 individuals.

The number of families in the parish is 108, whereof 68 are chiefly employed in agriculture, and 20 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

There are no blind, deaf, or dumb persons in the parish; 1 idiot; 1 slightly fatuous; and 1 or 2 that may be termed insane.

The Earl of Traquair, and his sister, Lady Louisa Stuart, are

* In the Government census of 1831, the population is given at 643, but in the official return the names of 14 persons were included who were only residents at the time, and not parishioners.

the only noble persons residing in the parish. Besides the heritors, Robert Nutter Campbell of Kailzie, Esq., William Allan of the Glen, and Captain James Ker of the Honourable East India Company's Service, heir-apparent to Cardrona, there are no other individuals or families in independent circumstances resident among us.

Character and Habits of the People.—On this point we have no peculiarity to notice, except, perhaps, that our people have scarcely yet learned to accommodate themselves to the great change of the times since the close of the late war. There are not availing families among us, however, whose tables are covered with a plentiful though homely fare, and whose children are never so ill clad as to make their parents ashamed of bringing them up to the house of God. It must be admitted that all this requires an industry and an economy on the part of both parents, which must never be relaxed, and perhaps, too, a little saving before marriage to set the parties up without debt, which is but far too seldom the case in these days of luxury and of vanity. The late war, with all its expenses and bloodshed, was, perhaps, not so disastrous to the country by its loss of treasure and of life, as by the habits of living its fictitious prosperity has entailed upon all, both rich and poor. To the boundless prosperity of the late war, followed by the reduction of income after the peace, may be ascribed much of the distress, immorality, and irreligion of the present day. No doubt these changes have been felt less among a rural population than among the manufacturing classes, but still even among us their effects are obvious. Wages are not now so high in proportion to the *mode* of living, as they were during that war; employment is not so steady; and neither proprietors nor farmers in general so able to afford either as formerly. At the same time, the old thrifty habits of domestic industry and economy in families have been forgotten; by many, every thing is now bought with money,—the wheel being almost altogether laid aside, and nearly every article of raiment being now purchased instead of being made at home. The expensive articles of tea, coffee, and sugar, they can neither easily want nor easily procure. They become, therefore, liable to feelings of discontent, which have, it may be feared, injured the cause of true and vital godliness, and of brotherly kindness and charity in the hearts of many; for while justice demands the admission that our people are generally intelligent, generous, and respectable in their station, it is doubtful if we can

add that they are equally religious. Poaching in salmon in close-time is much practised, having been long winked at by the landholders, from the very small numbers of fish that find their way up the river at any other season.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| The quantity of land in the parish under cultivation is fully | 3000 imperial acres. |
| Never cultivated, | 14000 |
| That might be cultivated with a profitable application of capital, | 0 |
| In undivided common, | 0 |
| Under wood, planted, | 600 |

Rent of Land.—Arable land rents at from 12s. to L. 3 per acre; the average being probably about 17s. The rent of grazing an ox or cow may be about L. 3; and that of a ewe or full-grown sheep, 5s.

The average real rental of the parish may be as under :

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------|----------|----------|
| 3000 acres under cultivation, at 17s. | - | - | - | L. 2550 | 0 | 0 |
| 6000 hill sheep, at 5s. | - | - | - | 1500 | 0 | 0 |
| 900 sheep fed in parks, at 10s. | - | - | - | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | <u>L. 4500</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

Prices of Labour, and Implements of Husbandry.—The rate of ploughmen's wages per annum varies from L. 9 to L. 10, 10s. When married, and not living in the farm-house, they have as an allowance for bed and board, a dwelling-house, provision for a cow throughout the year, 52 stones (old weight) of oatmeal, one-half boll of seed-potatoes planted, and four cart loads of coals, about 64 cwt. driven,—they paying the coals at the pit, and the tolls on the road. The wages of women-servants connected with the farms may be stated at L. 4 in summer, and at L. 2 in winter.

Enclosing and draining are now generally set by the piece; 7s. per rood, of six yards, being considered a fair price for finishing dry stone dikes; and 8d. per rood for cutting drains three feet deep, the farmer in general filling them up with stones, and covering them in by his own servants.

The average rate of mason and carpenters' wages is probably about 15s. per week in summer, and perhaps 12s. in winter.

An excellent wooden plough, full mounted, may be made in the parish for L. 2, 10s., and a pair of harrows for L. 1, 8s. A close-bodied single-horse cart may cost L. 9; and other articles in proportion to the work employed on them. Excellent sheep-flakes of larch may be had for 2s. each.

The iron plough has now become very common, and may cost from L. 3 to L. 4, 15s.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—Considerable attention has been paid to the breed of cattle, sheep, and farm-horses. The cattle reared in the parish are generally of the Teeswater or short-horn kind,—sometimes crossed by the Ayrshire. Many now, however, buy their cattle, consisting both of the above breed, and of Highlanders, for feeding, rather than submit to the toil, risk, and expense of rearing them. Probably 130 are fed off for the market every year. They may average perhaps 44 stones, of 14lb. each.

The sheep stock is now almost exclusively of the Cheviot breed. They are not large, weighing perhaps on an average about 12lbs. per quarter when fat. Of these probably 1200 are fed off on turnips annually; while 500 *grit* ewes are sold in spring; 2300 lambs in autumn; and still later in the season 300 full-grown sheep fed off on grass.

The quantity of wool sold per annum may average about 230 cwt.

Husbandry.—On the whole it is not doubted but that the state of husbandry and improvement, from the duration of leases, (generally averaging nineteen years,) the excellent state of farm-buildings and enclosures, the abundance of capital, and the encouragement of landlords, has advanced, in this district, nearly to its *ultimatum*. The distance from lime and coal being from twenty to twenty-four miles, and the great elevation above the sea, added to the light nature of the soil itself, prevent the hope of much farther improvement.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may probably be nearly as follows:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|
| Grain of all kinds, 6000 bolls at L. 1, | - | - | - | - | L. 6000 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | - | - | - | - | 1300 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, partly meadow by irrigation, and partly cultivated, | - | - | - | - | 450 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, at the rates above-mentioned, | - | - | - | - | 3500 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | | L. 11,250 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town and Means of Communication.—The nearest market-town is Peebles, at the distance of from three to ten miles from the different boundaries of the parish, or about seven from the parish church. This is also the post-town for the western district, while Innerleithen daily penny-post serves the centre and eastern division of the parish. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is fifteen miles; but as this parish is not a thoroughfare,

and the population scanty, no mail or stage-coaches travel in it. The turnpike roads are now much improved—the bridges over the different burns are good—and the timber bridge lately erected over the Tweed on the new line of road to Innerleithen and Edinburgh, by the patriotic exertions of the landholders in this and the neighbouring parish, has been a public benefit.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated as nearly as possible in the very centre of the parish, as to its territorial boundaries, but fully a mile from the centre of the great mass of the population. Owing to the mountainous character of the parish, the public roads must invariably follow the course of its streams. Hence one line, leading from Peebles, runs along the banks of the Tweed from west to east for about twelve miles within the parish, and another of about three runs from north to south along the banks of the Quair and one of its tributaries. On this road the church stands, about six, five, and two miles from the different ends of the parish. The inhabitants on the estate of Kailzie, amounting nearly to a sixth part of the whole population of the parish, finding themselves on an average not much above three miles from Peebles, and six from their parish church, regularly go to Peebles to worship, either with the Establishment, if they can find seats, or, if not, among the dissenters; and consequently, by the annexation of that part of the parish of Kailzie to Traquair, instead, as it ought to have been, to Peebles, if it was to be suppressed at all, a very large addition has been almost necessarily made to the ranks of the secession. Above all, the distance of the church from the centre of the great mass of the population is but too good an apology for its being seldom visited by children.

There is, however, little chance of a change in the situation of the church, as it was built only in 1778, and floored with wood, and furnished with stoves, and made as comfortable as possible a few years ago. It is in excellent repair, fully capable of accommodating the half of the population, and every seat in it free, although of course appropriated to the several farms into which the parish is divided.

The manse was built in 1793 or 1794, and received a large addition, and very extensive repairs in 1814.

The glebe measures about 12 imperial acres, and might let for about L. 20 per annum. The stipend, modified in 1821, is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. of commun-

ion elements. The average amount of stipend, converted to money, for the last seven years, is L. 265, 11s.

The only place of worship in the parish besides the Established church is the private Roman Catholic chapel at Traquair House, which is under the bishop resident in Edinburgh.

Probably three-fourths of the families in the parish are connected with the Established church; and the remaining fourth, after deducting five families of Roman Catholics, numbering thirty souls, belong to the United Secession and Relief bodies. A small proportion of these are natives. The Catholics consist of two Scotch families, two Irish, and one French. It deserves to be noted here, that although the children of Roman Catholics read the word of God, in the "Protestant version, and in a daily Bible class," nay, although most of them learn our catechisms, either voluntarily, or by hearing them repeated by others, yet, in the memory of man, there has not been one conversion from Catholicism in this parish.

Considering the distance of many of our people from their respective places of worship, we have pleasure in saying, that their attendance is generally good. The average number of communicants is rather under 200. In this part of the country almost every person as soon as he comes to a proper age, is most anxious to become a communicant.

Collections are now annually made in the church for religious purposes, but principally for the General Assembly's Highland schools, and Indian missions. The probable average amount of such collections may be about L. 10 yearly.

Education.—There is only one school* in this parish, namely, the parochial. For the last sixty years, at least, no other branches of education could be learned in it besides reading, writing, and accounts. Whether the taste for any thing superior to these, now that they have the opportunity of acquiring it, may arise, time will show. There are perhaps not two individuals in the parish above the years of infancy, who cannot at least read; were this otherwise, the people would be utterly inexcusable, seeing that the school fees are so small, being for reading, 2s.; for reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; and for both, with accounts, 3s. per quarter; and seeing also that these fees are always paid out of the poor's fund for those who declare themselves unable to pay. We need scarcely add,

* Of late, a sewing-school has been opened at Cardrona.

after what has been said of the liberality of our heritors, that the salary is the maximum ; and the parochial teacher has fully double the legal accommodations. The school-fees may amount perhaps on an average to L. 25 per annum. Owing to the great length of the parish in proportion to its breadth, many of the children can scarcely be expected to attend regularly, except perhaps for a short time in summer. Those in its western division find accommodation in the schools of Peebles ; while a few families on its eastern borders are more destitute.

A few years ago a small school library was founded in the parish ; at first it seemed to be very popular, but now it is very much neglected. The same thing may be said of a Sabbath evening school, or lecture, established principally for young people after having left school and gone to service, as also for the aged and infirm, and mothers of infant children, who could not attend church in the forenoon, but which, owing to the gradual decay of attendance, has, in the meantime, been discontinued.

Popular lectures on some of the more simple parts of science were delivered gratis in the school-room two winters ago, and called forth a very crowded audience. They may perhaps be resumed occasionally hereafter.

Friendly Societies.—Many of our people are connected with several of these, especially in Peebles ; and there is the Innerleithen and Traquair society of this kind, the funds of which are well managed ; and the society is well supported. Some of the labouring classes, when unable to work from sickness, are entitled, we believe, to as much as 9s. a-week from these societies ; but it has been noticed by some, that many of the members of such societies very seldom put any thing into the poors' box on Sunday. We must add, however, that we are not aware that almost any of them have come upon the poors' roll, except perhaps when rendered totally unable to work, by accident or by old age, and when the weekly emoluments furnished by such societies become very small ; these becoming less and less the longer the members continue unfit for work.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving regular parochial aid is 18. At present the number is 25. They consist of 1 widower, and an old man unmarried ; 6 widows, one of them having three children, and one old woman unmarried ; 1 family, consisting of both parents and three child-

ren ; and 8 orphans and illegitimate children, deserted by one or both parents. On an average, the old people receive for house rent, medical attendance, and maintenance, 2s. 6d. per week, or L. 6, 10s. per annum ; and the children about half of this sum, exclusive of the expense of their education, which has amounted for some years past, along with that of others not on the poors' roll, to nearly L. 10 per annum.

The funds by which this expense is defrayed consist of four different kinds. *1st*, Interest of mortified money, amounting to about L. 8. *2d*, Collections in the church, averaging about L. 18. *3d*, A voluntary offering made by the heritors for fully fifty years past, and instituted long before any regular assessment was imposed, of L. 6. And *4th*, An assessment borne in equal parts by both heritors and tenants of land. We do not take into account church dues, arising from the use of mortcloths, for these are very seldom paid ; and no fines for church censures are ever exacted. The regular assessment has been in operation since the beginning of the present century, and was commenced during the great scarcity and dearth of these days. For the last fifteen years it has amounted to L. 77 per annum on an average, so that not less than L. 100 or L. 110 a-year are regularly spent in this parish on the support of the poor ; altogether exclusive of the private charity of families in this parish, and of individuals connected with it. The effect of the assessments is undoubtedly to impair that old Scottish spirit which considered the seeking of parochial relief as degrading. It ought to be stated, that it is the labourers in the parish, not the artisans, ploughmen, or shepherds that expect a share of these charities ; a proof of the advantage of having a fixed employment on which to depend for the means of subsistence.

Alehouses.—There are two inns or alehouses in “the parishen.” We cannot report that these have been sensibly injurious to the morals of the population.

Fuel.—The great scarcity and consequent expense of this article is the greatest disadvantage under which this parish lies. Till within these few years, coal from the county of Mid-Lothian cost here 1s. 6d. per cwt., or L. 1, 10s. per ton, a price which was attended with great distress to the poorer classes. By the new line of road now making in the county of Edinburgh, in continuation of that lately made from the Tweed along the banks of the Leithen,

it is believed that we shall not be above fifteen or sixteen miles from coal; and that what now costs here from 10d. to 14d. per cwt., will, on an average, be reduced fully below the lowest of these two prices.

Compression of Peat.—The time and attention required for the drying of peat has been the great objection to its more general use; and it is on this account chiefly that we consider the plan of compression lately introduced to the notice of the public as deserving of attention. The writer of this having made several experiments on the subject, feels confident in stating, that a very considerable quantity both of time and labour in the drying of peat may be saved by this process; but it appears to him, that, unless some simple, effectual, and speedy plan of withdrawing the peat from the box after being compressed be employed, the value of the plan of compression will be, as to economy, almost completely neutralized. On this point he would simply throw out the following hints: 1st, The principle of the corking-machine, by which a perfectly perpendicular movement is communicated through the lever to the piston, or lid of the box in which the peat is to be compressed, is indispensable. 2d, The box itself ought to be firmly fixed to the platform on which it rests; and, 3d, a false bottom (perforated, of course, like the real bottom of the box,) with an upright rod of iron attached to each end of it, so formed as to traverse (also perpendicularly) in a groove in each end of the lid or piston, with a knob at the top of each rod, by which, when the lever is raised up, after compression, the peat might be withdrawn from the box, and then with ease and expedition removed off this false bottom by the hands of the person who builds up the compressed peat in the small stacks or “rickles.” By this plan we think that two men, one to cut the peat, and the other to work the lever, with two, or at the most three women or boys to take the peat from the cutter, to place it carefully on the false bottom, to remove it when compressed, and to build it up in the heaps for drying, would be quite sufficient for the whole process; and in this way we should suppose that the expense of the compressed peat would not be more than double of its cutting in the common way; or when ready for carrying home, not more than that of common peat, because all the expense of “fitting” and “turn-fitting;” in a word, all the labour between cutting and carrying home is saved, and the whole work is done in one or more continuous days.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was drawn up, the whole system of agriculture in the parish has been changed, improved, and extended. The old Scottish plough is now entirely laid aside, and four horses are probably never seen yoked together in the field. Instead of "a small quantity of turnips being raised," they form a regular rotation in every farm. Instead of "500 bolls of barley being exported," there is now at least double that quantity. Instead of the wheat being "nothing equal to the consumption," that consumption is not only immensely enlarged, but a considerable overplus for sale is left. Instead of the small coarse-woolled black-faced breed of sheep, we have now the Cheviot. Instead of one resident heritor, we have four. Preparations are now going on for a very considerable extension of the plantations on the estates of The Glen and Cardrona. Every farm-steading in the parish has probably been rebuilt in the interval. It only remains to add, that the first water-meadows in Scotland were formed in this parish. Some of them are still irrigated regularly, and we have heard one farmer allege that they would amply repay the original cost, were he compelled by wet seasons to cart the grass they produce directly to the dunghill.

Owing partly to the lightness of the soil, and partly to its having been so long in cultivation, the land in general is becoming exhausted. Much of it will no longer produce clover and rye-grass, (the only grasses, we believe, that have been attempted to be raised in this district,) so as to be a remunerating crop, and some farms seem also to have begun to weary of turnip; at all events, the disease known familiarly by the name of *fingers-and-toes* has shown itself more or less in some of our fields.

The writer would propose, in the first place, that there ought to be an understanding, at the commencement of every lease, that if the tenant cultivate his farm properly, and pay his rent duly, it shall be in his own option to continue in the farm so long as he does so, on a rise or fall of rent corresponding to the fiars prices and to the times; for it is known to every one, that, by the stimulus of lime, a tenant can "take every good quality out of the soil that is in it," by the termination of his lease, and yet not violate a single condition of the contract. Hence the desire the tenants all express that they should know whether they are to "fit" or not, even several years before the end of the lease.

Were this understanding to become general, the farmer would be encouraged to give full attention to the procuring of foreign manure to make up for the loss sustained by the grain raised not being consumed on the farm. This, it is believed, might be accomplished in a district such as this, by water-meadows, or simply by cutting, were it only for the dunghill, immense masses of ferns, heath, and above all "sprints," which are allowed to grow up and rot on the hills, and which, at best, only increase annually the quantity of peat bog. With the sprints, and even with the ferns, if cut green and well salted, they might winter in the straw yard an additional number of cattle, and thus add both to their purse and their dunghill, without deducting a single comfort from their sheep; nay, adding many, in the sweetness and variety of the young and tender grasses that would spring up. And again, let an inch,—more or less,—of new mould, nay, even of "till," be brought up at every rotation of turnip fallow, and well incorporated with the now rich old soil, and we venture to say, that the productive quality of our fields will again return, and will soon repay all the additional benefit that had been heaped upon them.

April 1834.

PARISH OF TWEEDSMUIR.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE BURNS, D. D. MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish having originally been attached to that of Drummelzier, appears to have been formerly called Over-Drummelzier. As to the origin of its present name, which it has had at least since the year 1643, when it was erected into a new parish, it is only necessary to state, that the Tweed has its rise in this parish, and that a considerable proportion of the country, particularly beside the source of the river, is in a remarkable degree distinguished by the bleakness and moorishness of its aspect. The mean length and breadth of the parish are nearly equal, and are not less than eight miles. It is thirty miles in circumference, and has been calculated to contain sixty-four square miles, or about 33,380 Scotch acres. But if allowance be made for the vast inequalities of ground, the extent may be fairly estimated as at least two-thirds more.

The parish is bounded on the south by Moffat; on the east by Megget; on the west by Crawford; and on the north by Drummelzier. It is situated in the midst of that vast range of mountains which stretches into Scotland from Northumberland, advances to the head of Lanarkshire, passing through Selkirkshire and the northern boundary of Dumfries-shire, and terminates in the county of Ayr, thus forming a chain of connection between the east and west counties of the south of Scotland.

Topographical Appearances.—The highest hills in the parish are Broadlaw on the north, and that part of Hartfell or Hartfield on the south, which comprehends its highest point of elevation. By an accurate calculation, made by order of Government, Broadlaw was found to be 2741 feet above the sea level at low water, and Hartfell 2635, the former being the highest hill south of the Forth. From the summit of Broadlaw a prospect opens extensive and magnificent in the highest degree; for, while the eye passes over

mountain after mountain in apparently endless succession, like waves of a tumultuous sea, it rests not till it reaches the English border and the German ocean. It is worthy of remark, as regards this and most of the other hills in the parish, that they are of comparatively easy ascent, and are flat as attic plains on the top. Many of the inhabitants of the parish are supplied with excellent peat from these lofty regions, which is brought down in common carts, drawn by horses with comparative ease and safety. And, what constitutes at once the ornament and the value of these mountains, is, that they are clothed in the finest verdure, even to the top, and produce an herbage so luxuriant in summer, as to admit of being mowed to an indefinite extent. The pasture which they afford for sheep and black-cattle is of the richest and most nutritious quality; in proof of which, there is no part of this or any other country that produces flocks more healthy, or in higher repute in the English market. It may also be remarked, that these mountains have none of that Alpine boldness of contour by which the Grampians and most other hills of Caledonia are distinguished. The flats and morasses of this district are comparatively few and inconsiderable.

Meteorology.—It may be remarked under this head, that no material difference has been observed betwixt the weather here and at Edinburgh. Snow or rain in some instances has preceded that at Edinburgh by several hours; and in the case of a fall of snow which happened in November 1831, it was found that it fell to a greater depth in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, than even in this elevated region. From the situation of these mountains in relation to the eastern and western seas, storms of snow and rain frequently spend their force before reaching them; and those who have lived long in the country give it as the result of their observation, that the sheep have seldom been denied their pasture for any length of time, in consequence of the depth or long continuance of the snow; and that the loss of sheep or lambs from the severity of the weather has at no time been very considerable. The average quantity of rain that falls annually throughout the county does not exceed twenty-eight inches; and hence it may be inferred that though showers are more frequent, yet that the actual quantum is not so great as in those counties which lie east and west of Tweeddale. A book of meteorological observations, kept by the late schoolmaster of this parish for several years previous to his death, exhibits the following results.

Mean temperature of the different seasons at Tweedsmuir, from 1821 to 1828, inclusive, reckoning March, April, and May, the months of spring; June, July, and August, those of summer; September, October, and November, those of autumn; and December, January, and February, those of Winter.

| | | Spring. | Summer. | Autumn. | Winter. |
|-------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1821, | - | 42°.973 | 54°.616 | 46°.780 | 35°.980 |
| 1822, | - | 45°.183 | 56°.940 | 45°.406 | 38°.333 |
| 1823, | - | 42°.796 | 52°.253 | 44°.886 | 32°.990 |
| 1824, | - | 40°.193 | 54°.120 | 43°.716 | 36°.730 |
| 1825, | - | 41°.966 | 55°.680 | 45°.070 | 35°.546 |
| 1826, | - | 43°.220 | 56°.180 | 43°.266 | 34°.516 |
| 1827, | - | 42°.256 | 53°.873 | 46°.246 | 34°.090 |
| 1828, | - | 42°.960 | 54°.746 | 45°.570 | 37°.953 |

Mean annual temperature of a constant spring, and of the air at Tweedsmuir, from 1821 to 1828, inclusive.

| | | Constant Spring. | Air in the Shade. |
|-------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| 1821, | - | 45°.711 | - 45°.900 |
| 1822, | - | 45°.866 | - 46°.129 |
| 1823, | - | 44°.743 | - 43°.436 |
| 1824, | - | 45°.055 | - 43°.565 |
| 1825, | - | 45°.291 | - 44°.494 |
| 1826, | - | 45°.565 | - 45°.212 |
| 1827, | - | 44°.896 | - 44°.179 |
| 1828, | - | 45°.195 | - 45°.316 |

MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE.

| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April. | May. | June. | July. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1821 | 36°.02 | 35°.94 | 38°.86 | 45°.70 | 44°.36 | 51°.47 | 55°.02 | 57°.36 | 53°.99 | 46°.61 | 39°.74 | 38°.54 |
| 1822 | 38°.00 | 38°.46 | 41°.12 | 44°.00 | 50°.43 | 58°.77 | 56°.32 | 55°.79 | 48°.30 | 40°.02 | 41°.90 | 34°.50 |
| 1823 | 31°.75 | 32°.72 | 37°.33 | 40°.77 | 50°.29 | 50°.00 | 53°.74 | 53°.02 | 49°.97 | 42°.72 | 41°.97 | 36°.96 |
| 1824 | 36°.77 | 36°.46 | 34°.14 | 40°.11 | 46°.33 | 53°.26 | 55°.51 | 53°.59 | 50°.41 | 42°.29 | 38°.45 | 35°.47 |
| 1825 | 35°.57 | 35°.60 | 36°.17 | 41°.97 | 47°.76 | 53°.01 | 57°.99 | 56°.04 | 53°.90 | 46°.38 | 34°.93 | 34°.61 |
| 1826 | 30°.15 | 38°.79 | 37°.49 | 43°.02 | 49°.15 | 59°.23 | 58°.39 | 56°.82 | 49°.76 | 45°.27 | 34°.77 | 39°.71 |
| 1827 | 32°.44 | 30°.12 | 35°.68 | 42°.37 | 48°.52 | 52°.82 | 55°.93 | 52°.87 | 51°.46 | 47°.39 | 39°.69 | 40°.46 |
| 1828 | 37°.36 | 36°.04 | 38°.96 | 41°.34 | 48°.64 | 54°.23 | 55°.86 | 54°.15 | 50°.56 | 44°.00 | 42°.15 | 40°.51 |

The prevailing winds in this quarter are S. and S. W. which most commonly bring rain, whereas snow is generally looked for from the N. and E.

Small-pox and measles are the only infectious diseases known here, and have never appeared unless when imported. There are no epidemic or prevailing distempers.

Within these few years, several persons have died at the advanced ages of from 90 to 95 years; and there are two individuals, a male and a female, at present enjoying vigorous old age at upwards of fourscore. The average of deaths in the parish itself, does not exceed three or four per annum; but as many persons are brought from other parishes for interment here, the number of burials in the course of a year is very considerable.

Hydrography.—*Tweed.*—A very insignificant well near Tweed-

shaws, at the upper extremity of the parish, gives rise to the far-famed river Tweed, which runs ten miles through the parish, in a north-westerly direction, and, after pursuing a beautiful meandering course for ninety miles farther, loses itself in the German Ocean at Berwick. The source of the Tweed is half a mile from Lanarkshire, on the west, and the same distance from Dumfriesshire on the south, and it is not a little remarkable, that from the base of one and the same hill, the three celebrated rivers, Tweed, Annan, and Clyde, take their rise. It may with truth be said, that though the origin of the Tweed be humble, it is not *lowly*, as the spring whence it flows is fully 1500 feet above the sea's level. Almost innumerable are the tributary streams in this parish which the Tweed begins to receive from within two miles of its source, and which cause it to swell and to amplify as it rolls along. These have the names of *waters* and *burns* applied to them according to their relative degrees of magnitude or importance. The Core, Fruid, and Tala, three waters in this parish, run into the Tweed from the south-east. The first rises on the lands of Earlsbaugh, and, after running three miles, falls into the Tweed a mile below Tweedshaws. The second has its origin three miles east from the source of the Core, and, after a course of seven miles, joins the Tweed a mile above the church. The third originates in a small spring half a mile west from Loch Skeen, and descends from the hills seven or eight miles, when it loses itself in the Tweed below the church, where a good stone bridge has been erected. There are in this parish nine burns, marked by the following names, viz. Tweedhope, Glencraigie, Badlieu, Old Fingland, Menzion, Glenrisk, Moat, Harestone, and Polmood. These all run in a north-easterly direction to the Tweed, in which they empty themselves. The only other of any consequence is Gameshope *burn*, which joins Tala water four miles above the spot where it mingles with the main river. These different streams, great and small, have an abundant supply of trout, par, and eels; and in Tweed at spawning time, which commences about the end of autumn, salmon of considerable size often fall victims to the snares of the poacher, which are commonly the *light* and the *leister*. At the bridge over Tweed is Carlow's *Linn*, a small but interesting water-fall, formed by the rocky bottom over which the river here passes.

There is a lake in the parish worthy of notice, not on account of its extent, for it is only 586 yards in circumference, but as being, perhaps, the highest sheet of water in the south of Scot-

land. It is called Gameshope Loch, and abounds in excellent trout, though, on account of the dark and mossy hue of the water, they are of a black colour. From what has now been stated, it may be inferred that this parish affords opportunities for fishing such as are seldom to be met with. It is accordingly much resorted to in favourable seasons by the lovers of that sport from Edinburgh and other quarters.

Every *water*, and almost every *burn*, has its range of hills and its valley, with scenery more or less beautiful, romantic, and interesting. There is high ground on both sides of the main river, and towards the lower extremity of the parish, the spots of cultivation, and fringes of planting which adorn its banks and the adjacent hills, give the whole an inland appearance, and cannot fail to please the eye of the tasteful observer. Near the top of Broadlaw hill, there is a remarkably fine perennial spring called *Geddes's Well*, and from the Hartfell spa at the south skirt of that mountain, chalybeate waters are transported for the cure of many ulcerous disorders.

Geology and Mineralogy.—In this parish, nothing has yet been discovered to gratify the professed geologist or mineralogist. Greywacke and greywacke-slate (*whinstone* of the peasantry,) and some other lapideous strata belonging to the order of transition rocks, are to be found in abundance; but no *secondary strata* have been ascertained to exist, though, from the soft outline of these mountains, it might be supposed that sandstone could be found beneath the soil. It does not, however, appear that any attempt has been made by mining or otherwise to make geological discoveries or observations. In many places the soil is strong, being a thick mould formed of earth and moss. The arable parts of the parish present a soil in general of a light loam, with gravel and sandstone at the bottom.

Zoology.—The only rare animal that has been known to frequent this parish belongs to the feathered tribe, and is called *Erne*, or White-tailed Eagle, (the young bird, the Sea Eagle, or *Falco ossifragus*; the old bird, the White-tailed Eagle, the *Falco albicilla*,) which at one time used to hatch in an island in Loch Skeen, and to nestle among the clefts around Tala Linnfoots. So great were its ravages among the sheep, that every effort was made to extirpate it, and for many years past there has been reason to think that these efforts were successful. But in the course of the season just closed, it reappeared in the same as well as in

other parts of the parish, and committed several depredations. It had well nigh carried off a shepherd's boy, but fortunately it was discovered hovering over its destined victim, and driven away just before it had pounced upon its prey. Under this head it would be unpardonable to omit the *fidus Achates*, or shepherd's dog, whose docility, sagacity, and vast utility cannot be too highly appreciated. As occasion requires, and the shepherd issues the mandate, he either remains on permanent duty as a guard or watch over the flock when his master is necessarily engaged elsewhere, or he goes round the scattered sheep at a great distance and collects them, thus relieving the shepherd of the most arduous part of his labours, and accomplishing feats on these mountains which, without his dexterous management, could not perhaps be accomplished at all. Those of the true breed bring a high price, varying from L. 3 to L. 5, and even L. 6 Sterling.

Botany.—The earliest spring food for the sheep in this district is the plant bearing a white cotton head, vulgarly called moss-crop, i. e. bog cotton, the *Eriophorum polystachion* of Linnæus. To this it is thought Ossian refers when he thus describes a certain beautiful female; "If on the heath she moved, her breast was whiter than the down of Cana, &c." It begins to spring about Candlemas in propitious seasons, and grows in mossy ground. Drawing, the *E. vaginatum* of Linnæus, succeeds it in March, and the sheep gently seize upon the part above ground. Heath is the last in order, and it being the practice to burn a part yearly, in order to secure a succession of it, the burnt or young part is first discernible.

Tradition as well as living authority informs us, that this country abounded in wood of a natural growth; but, partly through the cupidity of proprietors in turning their timber into cash, regardless of the interest of their successors, and the beauty of the country, and partly through the increasing demand for mutton and broad-cloth, the hills are now denuded of their trees, and almost wholly devoted to pasture for sheep. Some old ash trees still remain at Fruid and Hawkshaw, and it is found that larch, birch, Scotch and silver fir, and poplars, agree best with the climate and soil of this elevated region. It is unfortunate that leases are not long enough to encourage tenants to plant trees to any extent, but it is gratifying to be able to report that the Earl of Wemyss and Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart. have not been altogether inattentive to this object. In the course of a few years, the young and

thriving plantations around the onsteads at Crook and Harestone, belonging to the former proprietor, and at Nether Menzion, belonging to the latter, cannot fail to add greatly to the beauty and comfort of the dwelling places.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—Besides the former Statistical Account of the parish furnished to Sir John Sinclair by the Rev. J. Muschet, there is a more extended one in the Edinburgh Literary and Statistical Magazine. It is understood to have been written by the Rev. James Gardner, last minister of the parish.

Antiquities.—At the source of the Tweed, and where this parish borders on Annandale, there is a spot called *Tweeds-cross*, where stood one of those erections so frequently to be met with on public roads in this kingdom before the Reformation,—probably placed as devotional land-marks to guide travellers from one monastery to another. “Tweed’s cross is generally thought to have been a place of Druidical worship to the sun, and it is more than probable that it afterwards became a mark of direction on so precarious a pass, as well as a terminate point of division between the shires.” From its elevated site, 1632 feet above the level of the sea, it justly claims a pre-eminence over every other human erection of the kind in the south of Scotland.*

Near Earlsbaugh, in this vicinity, is a hill called the *Crown of Scotland*, for reasons now unknown.

On the right side of the road leading towards the Bield Inn, is the shepherd’s house of Badlieu, the property of Lord Forbes, and well known as the residence of Bertha, so celebrated for her beauty and her tragical fate. Grimus, King of Scotland, who had a hunting-seat at Polmood, was captivated by her charms, and the birth of a son was the consequence of an illicit connection between them. During the absence of the king, occasioned by an attempt on the part of the Danes to invade the northern frontiers of his kingdom, Bertha, her father, and her child were murdered by assassins employed by the queen. The queen did not long survive this act of barbarity. The king on his return caused the grave to be opened, and contemplated with mingled feelings of grief and horror the three mangled bodies. From that period he lost

* In the immediate neighbourhood of this cross, during a severe snow storm in February 1831, the guard and driver of the mail coach to Edinburgh were compelled to leave the coach, and attempted to carry the letter-bags on their shoulders; but unfortunately having gone off the high road, they became exhausted, and sunk lifeless among the snows. They hung the bags upon a pole at the side of the road, which is still marked out to the passing traveller.

all relish for the joys of life, and soon afterwards died on the field of battle in the eighth year of his reign.

On the opposite side of the Tweed, and close by the road leading from the church to Menzion house, there are the remains of a Druidical temple, or Pictish court of justice. Only one stone is left of a number similar in appearance and size which stood together, and which have been removed for the purposes of dike-building, &c. It is called the Standing-stone, and is five feet above the surface of the earth. From behind it, a person of diminutive stature, known by the name of Little John, discharged an arrow at the head of a freebooter of formidable dimensions who greatly annoyed the peaceful inhabitants, and who, though on the opposite side of the Tweed, was unable to elude the deadly stroke.* A tumulus at the spot where he fell is still pointed out as the giant's grave; and certain it is that sixteen years ago a labourer, in removing the stones of a cairn at the spot, found the grave of some ancient hero. "The sides of it," says the late incumbent of this parish, "were all regularly lined with smooth thin stones, and the top well covered with a large flag of full length." Fragments of an urn of strong earthen-ware were found within, a piece of which was brought to the minister at the time.

About thirty years before this event, a grave of the same description, and containing an urn, was found under a cairn upon Nether Oliver, the property of the Earl of Wemyss. And at a later date, upon the lands of Menzion, there was found another grave, with side stones about six feet, and a covering stone two feet thick, and five in length. Over this monument there was no cairn or heap of smaller stones. At Fruid, Hawkshaw, and Oliver are vestiges of those ancient castles, towers, or strengths, of which the strath of Tweed from this part of Peebles-shire, down to Elibank Tower, and from thence to Berwick, exhibits so many relics.

The parish church stands upon an eminence resembling a Saxon moat, triangular in form, and thirty feet in height. It has sometimes been called *Quarter Knowe*, and supposed to have been a place of Druidical worship. Forsyth in his *Beauties of Scotland* says, that "it is generally supposed to be an ancient tumulus, and is vulgarly called a Roman work." Some of the old inhabitants suppose that it is an elevation left by the confluence of the Tala and Tweed, which they say at one time overflowed the low

* This event is thought to have given rise to the well-known story of Jack the Giant Killer.

grounds now forming the glebe. A veil of mystery hangs over it which will probably never be dispelled; but as it forms the parish burial ground, as well as the site of the church, an opportunity is afforded, every time a grave is opened on the higher parts of the eminence, of observing the vast accumulation of stones which at one time or other may have there been brought together by human hands.

Family of Porteous.—Hawkshaw was formerly, and for upwards of 1000 years, the residence of the family of Porteous, allowed to have been the chief of the name; and the armorial bearing of that family has for a motto, "*Let the Hawk Shaw.*" Near the dwelling-house are faint vestiges of a chapel and burial-ground, where the sculptured head of a monk was found some time ago.

Near Tala Moss, in the same neighbourhood, there is a spot near which a detachment of sixteen horsemen from Oliver Cromwell's camp at Biggar was surprised and barbarously murdered by Porteous of Hawkshaw.

It is also reported that here at one time a number of predatory barbarians from the English border were attacked and killed by the inhabitants.

Family of Fraser.—Oliver Castle was the paternal seat of the Frasers. "This noble and ancient family," says Nisbet, "were originally from France, and settled in Scotland so early as the reign of Achaius 794, coëval with Charlemagne. The posterity of this emigrant were Thanes of the Isle of Man, and afterwards in Tweeddale, where they first assumed the name from the French strawberry *Frasses*. In the reign of Malcolm IV., they possessed an immense tract of land in the south of Scotland, particularly in Tweeddale, and were dignified with the power of High Sheriff of the county; and in the reigns of Alexander II. and III., and during the minority of the queen, Sir Simon Frazer, lord of Oliver Castle, 1292, with the heroism of a sound patriot, fought and defeated, with the assistance of Cummin and 10,000 Scots, a superior number of Edward First's army, said to have been 30,000 strong, near Roslin, 27th February 1303. But he did not long enjoy these merited honours, for, like the renowned Sir William Wallace, he was put into the hands of Edward, and, like him, died a martyr to his country's wrongs. His son being sent into exile in France, left his two sisters in possession of the estate, who soon after divided the lands in marriage with Fleming of Wigton,* and Hay of Yester;† but,

* Ancestor of the Earl of Wigton.

† Ancestor of the Marquis of Tweeddale.

hearing of the unexpected success of Robert Bruce, returned to claim his right, and to support that of his country. The king, however, on his remonstrance, finding the possessors in nowise willing to relinquish so valuable a property, granted to him an equivalent of lands in the north." These noble families have now no interest in Tweeddale. *

There can be no doubt that the glens and mountains of this parish were among the favourite haunts of our persecuted forefathers in the reign of Charles II. Donald's Cleugh, in Games-hope, is generally understood to have been so named from its being the retreat of that sturdy adherent of the Covenant, Donald Cargill, after he had fled from his charge in the Barony church of Glasgow, in consequence of the violent persecution directed against the covenanters of the west. †

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners in this parish are the Earl of Wemyss and March, and Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart.

Parochial Registers.—The parish registers commence in June 1722, and have been kept with tolerable regularity.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| In 1755 the population was | - | 397 |
| 1775, | . | 250 |
| 1790-8, | . | 227 |
| 1800, | . | 277 |
| 1831, | . | 288 |

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| 1. Number of families in the parish, | - | 49 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | 24 |
| trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | 5 |
| not in any of these occupations, | - | 20 |
| 2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | - | 5 |
| women, including widows, upwards of 45, | - | 3 |
| 3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age, | - | 121 |
| upwards of 70, | - | 9 |

* Buchanan of Auchmar, in his inquiry into the genealogy of ancient Scots surnames, says, "That great man Sir Simon Frazer, so famous in the reign of Robert I., was Lord of Tweeddale, and resided at Oliver Castle in that county;" and adds, that "the Tweedies, now possessors of that castle and adjacent estate, are supposed to be descended from the ancient Frazers, now of Lovat and Saltoun." How the Tweedies became proprietors of Oliver Castle is variously conjectured, but it is undoubted that they resided at Drummelzier in James First's time, and were possessors of almost the whole lands from Neidpath Castle, near Peebles, the ancient property and chief residence of the Frasers of Oliver Castle, in this parish. It is thought that Drummelzier was alienated from them about the latter end of James Fifth's time. The site of the old castle of Oliver is still pointed out at a clump of trees on high ground opposite the manse, but on the other side of the river; and contiguous to it is the present mansion-house, a plain substantial edifice, the occasional residence of Lawrence Tweedie, Esq. now Laird of Oliver. As to the origin of the Tweedies, see *Waverley Novels*, Introduction to the *Betrothed*, pp. 6-8.

† A different account of that secluded region given by Mr William Hogg, brother of the Ettrick Shepherd.

The decrease of population has been owing to the extension of farms. The whole property of the parish belongs to nine individuals, only one of whom ranks as a resident heritor. There are only five or six individuals that can be called resident tenants.

Character and Habits of the People.—The people in general live in comfort, and scarcely any are unable to lay in their mart for winter. Poaching prevails to a considerable extent both in game and salmon; but, on the whole, the people are intelligent, moral, and religious. The shepherd's plaid is universally worn.

At Tweedhopefoot, two miles north from Tweedshaws, there lived a well-known character in his day, called Jamie Welsh, and ironically nick-named the *Bairn of Tweedhopefoot*, a perfect Milo in physical strength, huge in corporeal bulk, and having "*a heart of oak*," in respect of personal courage. His putting-stone is still shown, and it is a heavy lift for any ordinary man. It is said that he carried a load of meal (16 stones) on his back all the way from Peebles, a distance of 24 miles, and only rested twice.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of English acres actually under tillage and enclosure does not exceed 300. But it is impossible to calculate how much is arable, a great proportion of the mountains being quite capable of cultivation; though, from the expense of lime and other causes, it is not considered an object to bring it into that state. Oats, barley, turnips, pease, potatoes, and artificial grasses are the usual crops, and succeed well. The average return of grain is six bolls to one sown. There are no acres in undivided common; and the number of those under wood does not exceed 25.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre is 18s. The average rate of grazing is L. 3, 10s. per ox or cow, and 5s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year. The valued rent of the parish stood thus in 1819:

| | | | |
|---|---------|----|----|
| Earl of Wemyss, | L. 1657 | 7 | 0 |
| Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart. | 720 | 0 | 0 |
| Anderson of Carterhope, | 278 | 10 | 10 |
| Lord Forbes, | 272 | 7 | 0 |
| Scott of Fingland, | 237 | 9 | 2 |
| Stewart of Hawkshaw, | 228 | 12 | 0 |
| Tweedie of Oliver, | 215 | 13 | 6 |
| Welsh of Earlishaugh and Tweedshaws, | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| Stewart of Glenbreck, | 172 | 7 | 0 |

Total in Scotch money, L. 3962 6 6

Rate of Wages.—A good man-servant gets L. 12 per annum; and if married, a house in addition, and sometimes a cow's grass, if

he does not receive victuals from his master. A very capable servant-woman gets at the rate of L. 6 per annum. Mechanics charge 2s. 6d. per day with victuals, and 3s. *without* victuals.

Shepherds.—That very useful class of men receive as wages 45 sheep, (which may be valued at 7s. each,) 3 loads, or 6 bolls, of meal (per annum,) a cow, and dwelling-house, with a garden or potato plat. In some cases, where the charge is extensive, two or three milch cows are allowed; and if a shepherd has to employ a son, or any young man, as an assistant, a proportion of meal and sheep is granted for his wages and maintenance. Being more in the capacity of stewards or overseers than servants, our shepherds have much confidence reposed in them by their masters, or rather employers, and enjoy advantages and comforts corresponding to the importance of the station they occupy. They are seldom removed from their situation; their fidelity insures it to them till old age unfits them for the discharge of its duties, and often it descends from father to son.

Husbandry.—Smearing of sheep is universally practised, and tar and palm-oil forming a cheaper preparation, and no less efficacious than others that have been recommended, is now very generally used, though, to prevent the undue preponderance of the first named ingredient, many add a considerable proportion of butter and train-oil. Light stocking is carefully attended to, and ewe milking is almost entirely abandoned. At the great show of the Highland Society at Dumfries, Mr James Welsh of Earlsbaugh, who is the present tenant of Carterhope, gained the highest premium for black-faced, and Mr William Aitchison, present tenant of Menzion, for Cheviot. The former has for upwards of two years past tried the experiment of crossing the whole of Carterhope ewes with the Leicester breed of tups, which is found to succeed well. The price obtained for 600 sold at Liverpool last year was 14s. 6d., which he considered a good return.

In this parish there are 16,000 sheep, of which 9,000 are Cheviot or white-faced, and the remaining 7,000 are black faced. The former were introduced about thirty years ago, and, on account of the superior quality of the wool, are allowed to give the best return, especially when reared on land grassy and dry. But as the latter are generally supposed to be a hardier race, some give them the preference as best adapted for high, wet, and badly sheltered situations, though the opinion of some of the most intelligent, judicious, and experienced of our store-masters is decidedly against this notion.

About fifty years ago draining commenced in this parish on a large scale, and at a rough calculation not less than 80,000 roods have undergone that process. Catching of moles, building of stells or shelters for the sheep in stormy nights, and erecting march dikes or fences between different farms, are great improvements, and much has been done in these respects of late. The uncemented or Galloway dike is preferred as a fence for sheep. The duration of leases for such farms as this parish contains is extremely various, being 4, 6, 8, 14 to 19 years. The farm-houses are all slated and built of stone and lime, and most of them are two stories high. Several of the shepherds' houses are built of stone and lime, and covered with slate.

The greatest obstacle to improvement is the distance of lime and extent of land carriage for all kinds of material. A single cart of lime when every thing is hired costs 13s. or 14s.

Produce.—The average value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Oats at 14s. 6d. per boll, barley at 22s. per boll, and pease at 20s. per boll, the only grains cultivated in the parish, | L. 303 14 0 |
| Potatoes at 5s. per boll, | 143 15 0 |
| Turnips at 50s. per acre, | 80 0 0 |
| Meadow hay at 4d. per stone, | 241 17 6 |
| Cultivated do. at 6d. per stone, | 61 15 0 |
| Wool at the present prices, not less than 18s. per stone, | 2400 0 0 |

L. 3231 1 6

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Biggar, which is twelve miles from the Crook Inn. In the parish there is no village of any description.

Means of Communication.—There are post-chaises and horses at Crook, where is also our post-office. The great road from Edinburgh to Dumfries by Moffat runs ten miles through the parish; and, as the mail-coach passes along it daily, it is of course kept in a state of excellent repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is scarcely two miles from the lower extremity of the parish, and, consequently, some of the parishioners have to travel eight miles in order to reach it. It was built in 1648, and is at present in good repair. It accommodates 160 individuals, and about 30 free sittings are afforded by the communion seats, which, however, have lately been removed to make way for a stove during the severer months in winter; but in summer, when required for the greater attendance at that time, they are replaced.

The manse was built thirty-six years ago, and, along with the church, has just been receiving extensive repairs.

The glebe contains 9 acres and 17 falls Scots measure, of excellent quality, and may be worth L. 20 Sterling per annum.

The church, manse, and glebe are situated on a beautiful peninsula formed by the junction of Tweed and Tala. The stipend is 14 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Of valued teind there is about L. 60, which is paid in money, without conversion into meal and barley. The last augmentation was obtained in 1821, leaving the teinds unexhausted.

The parishioners are all attached to the Established church, and attend its services, with the exception of two individuals, who had been brought up in Secession principles at Peebles, and generally attend a meeting-house at Biggar, though they frequently appear along with their family at the parish church. The communicants are 120, and, considering the scattered state of the population, and the distance of many from the house of prayer, the usual attendance at Divine ordinances is remarkably good.

Education.—Besides the parish school, there are occasionally two private teachers hired for the convenience of a few families at a distance. The branches taught in the parish school, besides the ordinary ones, are geography, French, Latin, and Greek. The salary is L. 32 Sterling per annum; and school fees amount to about L. 12 more. The legal accommodation of a dwelling-house is afforded. The garden is only one-half of the legal allowance, but in lieu of the other half, one boll of meal is granted. For teaching reading the master charges 8s., writing, 10s., arithmetic, 12s., Latin and Greek, 14s. per annum.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There was formerly a voluntary assessment among the heritors, but at present there is no assessment of any kind. The only support for the poor is derived from the weekly collections at church,—the proceeds of mortcloth and proclamations of banns. The spirit of independence is very strong among the people of this parish, and great aversion is generally felt to receiving aid from the *poor-box*, as it is called. There is at present only one pensioner on the poor's funds, who receives 1s. 3d. per week. Foreign mendicity annoys us greatly, and the conveyance of cripples, &c. from hence to Moffat, on the one hand, (fifteen miles) and to Broughton, on the other (eight miles,) forms, as might be expected, a very important item in our annual expenditure. The annual amount arising from all the usual sources

combined for the support of the poor, does not reach at an average L. 10 Sterling.

Inns.—There are three of these in the parish, but, being situated on the turnpike road, they may be considered necessary for the accommodation of travellers. At the same time they are, to a certain extent, demoralizing in their influence, especially on the habits of those who live in their vicinity. From the responsibility attached to the office of shepherds in this district, where they are entrusted with almost the whole management, men of truly upright characters have been generally selected, and it certainly speaks volumes in favour of their principles, that few of them are at all injuriously affected by the temptations which the contiguity of taverns seldom fails to present.

Fuel.—Coal of good quality cannot be procured nearer than Douglas, twenty-six miles distant, and of course it is an expensive fuel. But excellent peat abounds in the parish, which is of immense value, as respects the comfort of the poor. Such was the wetness of the summer 1830, that it was scarcely procurable, and coals were used in most houses during the following winter; and persons upwards of seventy years of age had recourse to this kind of fuel who had never seen it in their houses before.

April 1834.

PARISH OF DRUMMELZIER.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES SOMMERVILLE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—Mr Welsh, in the Statistical Account of 1790, states, that the name signifies in Gaelic "*here is a plain.*" Mr Chalmers in his Caledonia, derives it from a term signifying the inhabited "ridge."

The figure of the parish is irregular. The extreme length may be reckoned fourteen miles, and the average breadth betwixt three and four. It is bounded for the most part by the Tweed, and the mountains rise at a small distance from the river, leaving no great quantity of arable land, though in different places it spreads out into very fine haughs. The population is also chiefly on the river side.

Meteorology.—From the height of the parish above the level of the sea, the temperature of the air is rather cold. The prevailing winds are the west and south-west. The greatest rains are from the south and south-west; and though there are very heavy showers from the west, they are seldom of long duration. Rain from the east is not frequent, but when it does take place, generally continues long. The air is damp from the neighbourhood of the mountains, though the soil is so dry that the greatest rains speedily disappear. The east wind prevails much in spring, but the eastern *haar* is never seen here. The crops are occasionally so much injured by frost, in late seasons, as to be unfit for seed.

Diseases.—The prevailing diseases are fevers and consumption, as stated in 1790; but rheumatism, which then prevailed, has greatly ceased, probably owing to the people being now better lodged and clothed. Ague, which appears to have greatly prevailed in the seventeenth century, is now unknown.

Hydrography.—The only river in the parish is the Tweed, which divides it on the upper part, and runs along the west and north sides

of it through the lower part ; its depth varies from one foot to three or four, with occasionally deep pools.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks consist of a very hard greywacke (whinstone,) having many veins of quartz; of which latter there are also detached masses frequently met with. There is a rock of compact and very white limestone, on the side of a hill on the east side of the Tweed, and another similarly situated on the west side, exactly opposite each other; and no other lime is to be found nearer than twelve miles. The stratum in both, ranges from west to east. Neither of these, however, are wrought, owing to the distance from coal. There is abundance of slate in the hills, but none wrought at present, as there is an excellent quarry at Stobo, capable of supplying all the neighbourhood. Although the mountains are of transition formation, no organic remains have hitherto been found in them. The soil is generally sharp; the haughs consist of rich alluvial deposits; the land is in general excessively stony; and the stones are of the same kind as those which compose the neighbouring rocks. There is no sandstone, and very little clay in the parish.

Botany.—The common heaths and natural grasses prevail on the mountains, and form excellent sheep-pasture. The hills are well fitted for bearing Scots firs and larch; ash, plane and elm, thrive well on the lower grounds, and much of the hills might be planted with great advantage. But the planting of trees is expensive here, as very sufficient fences are necessary to preserve them from the sheep.

There are upwards of 400 imperial acres of wood in the parish, part of which is on the property of each of the heritors, but chiefly on the estate of Dawick, the property of Sir John M. Nasmyth, Bart. of Posso. He has already planted 360 acres, besides old wood in the park, single trees and shrubberies, and he is about to plant still more extensively. Some of the finest wood in Scotland has been raised on this estate; the horse chesnuts are not only ascertained to be the first introduced into Scotland, but are among the largest. The oaks and sycamores are also very large, and the larches the largest in Scotland, introduced into the country in 1725, by the grandfather of the present proprietor, one of the earliest and most spirited improvers in Scotland. One larch is about twenty feet in circumference at the bottom. There are about eleven imperial acres of natural wood.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—In Dr Pennecuik's History of Tweeddale there are several notices of the parish of Drummelzier. There is also something on the same subject in the very accurate and particular agricultural survey of the County of Peebles by the Rev. Mr Findlater.

Land-owners.—The land-owners are, Sir John M. Nasmyth, Bart. proprietor of Dawick; Sir James Montgomery, Bart. proprietor of Stanhope; Andrew White, Esq. proprietor of Drummelzier; the Rev. John T. Beresford, proprietor of Kingledoors; and Colonel Hunter, proprietor of Polmood.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers begin 1649, and have been regularly kept ever since, except from the year 1683 to 1689, during which period the minister was ejected for non-conformity; except also from 1694 to 1700, and from 1702 to 1705, in which intervals there were vacancies in the incumbency of the parish; and during vacancies the registrations seem to have been altogether neglected.

Antiquities.—There are traces of a road along the top of the mountain *Scrape*, understood to have been Roman, and which probably connected the camp at Lyne with the great road which ran from Carlisle towards Falkirk. There are also the remains of two old castles, the one called Tinnes Castle, supposed to be a corruption of Thaness. It is of so great antiquity that there is no tradition either of its erection or destruction. The walls are two Scots ells thick, and the cement as hard as the stone. The other is called Drummelzier Place, evidently more modern. It was the residence of the Tweedies of Drummelzier, the last of whom died in 1617.

III.—POPULATION.

It is impossible to discover the state of the population further back than Dr Webster's Account, 1755. But in as far as calculation can be founded on the register of baptisms, the population does not differ materially betwixt 1649 and 1755.

It has been gradually decreasing ever since that time, from the increasing wealth of the country, which puts it in power of individuals to take much larger farms than they were formerly able to do. The cottages also are allowed greatly to go to decay. This seems bad policy, as the cottages supply the farmers with labourers; and the servants whose parents reside in the neighbourhood are generally most trust-worthy.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| In 1755 the population was | - | 305 |
| 1790, males, 123 } | - | 270 |
| females, 147 } | - | |
| 1801, - - - | - | 278 |
| 1811, - - - | - | 292 |
| 1821, - - - | - | 293 |
| 1831, males, 107 } | - | 223 |
| females, 116 } | - | |

Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, are 5, and they constitute the whole proprietary of the parish.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1. Number of families in the parish, | - | - | - | 42 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 26 |
| chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | - | 8 |
| 2. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years, | - | - | - | 46 |
| deaths, | - | - | - | 16 |
| marriages, | - | - | - | 18 |
| 3. Number of deaf and dumb, | - | - | - | 1 |

There is one deaf and dumb boy now receiving education in the Edinburgh Institution.

Character of the People.—The people, on the whole, enjoy the comforts of life in a reasonable degree, and are contented with their situation and circumstances. There is little poaching in game, but a great deal in salmon. Since the duties were so far lowered that good spirits can be got at moderate prices, an end has been put to smuggling, which at one time prevailed considerably; nor is there any more drunkenness in this parish now than formerly, in consequence of the duties being lowered. There are neither spirits nor malt liquors sold in the parish. The people are remarkably sober; and their general sobriety has improved greatly of late years.

During the last three years, there were 7 cases of illegitimate birth; but in 5 of these the parents married.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—There are 12 ploughs in the parish, which may have on an average 60 imperial acres each. The number of acres never cultivated is 13,815. It is supposed there are about 36 acres in the low ground that could be profitably brought under cultivation. The number of acres under natural wood is 11; under plantations, 400.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of wages to farm-servants is from L. 10 to L. 12 per annum, with victuals; of women, L. 6. The wages of day-labourers are from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. with victuals, per day for men; for women, 8d. In 1790 they were only the half of that amount. Wrights and masons get 2s. 6d. per day, without victuals.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—There are about 6600 sheep in the parish, mostly of the black-faced breed, which, though inferior to the

Cheviot in fineness of wool, suit the climate better. The Ayrshire breed of cows prevail, and every attention is paid to improving them.

Rent of Land.—There is some pasture-land let this year for one season at L. 3, 3s. per Scots acre. The rent of arable land cannot be particularly specified, as all the farms consist partly of arable, and partly of hill pasture, and a general rent is given for the whole, some of the farmers putting more, and some less on the arable; but the average among those who live by farming may be reckoned 18s. per Scots acre. Some small lots are let to tradesmen, &c. at L. 2, 5s. per Scots acre, though of very inferior quality; but this is far beyond what could be given by those who are to make their livelihood by farming.

Husbandry.—The farm-buildings are generally good, and the enclosures mostly dry stone dikes. The crops are chiefly oats and barley. Bear or bigg is scarcely at all sown. Wheat is sometimes tried, but in small quantities.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---------|----|---|
| Wheat, 75 bolls, of 4 bushels each, | - | - | - | L. 87 | 18 | 0 |
| Pease, 90 do. | - | - | - | 63 | 0 | 0 |
| Oats, 1689 bolls, of 6 bushels each, | - | - | - | 1168 | 5 | 0 |
| Barley, 240 do. | - | - | - | 240 | 18 | 0 |
| Potatoes, 27 acres, from L. 3 to L. 15 per acre, | - | - | - | 286 | 10 | 0 |
| Turnips, 79 acres, from L. 2, 10s to L. 5 per acre, | - | - | - | 283 | 0 | 0 |
| N. B.—There is scarcely any market for potatoes or turnips, which are mostly consumed on the farms. The above is their estimated value, but not what they actually bring in to the farmer. | | | | | | |
| Meadow hay, 41 acres, 3600 stones, at from 3½d. to 4d. | - | - | - | 91 | 13 | 4 |
| Cultivated, 57½ acres, 7475 stones, at from 5d. to 6d. | - | - | - | 158 | 16 | 2 |
| The same remarks apply here as to potatoes and turnips. | | | | | | |
| <i>Pasture.</i> —Cattle, 209 milk cows or grazing cattle, from L. 2 to | | | | | | |
| L. 3, 3s. each per annum, | - | - | - | 532 | 0 | 0 |
| Sheep, 6600, from 4s. 6d. to 5s. each, | - | - | - | 1502 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, | | | | L. 4414 | 0 | 6 |

Two acres of hill pasture may be considered as the average quantity for a sheep, and two acres of arable land sown with grass seeds may be considered as the average for a cow or ox.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There is no market-town in the parish. The two nearest are those of Peebles and Biggar, the first 10, and the other 8 miles distant. As grain markets,—Lanark, which is distant eighteen miles, and Dalkeith twenty-four. There is a small village in the parish containing fifteen or sixteen families.

Means of Communication.—These are not very favourable. Coal is brought from Douglas, about twenty miles distant, and the nearest lime is at Wiston, distant twelve miles. There are two roads

to the coals and lime, one over the top of a mountain, impassable by a heavy loaded cart in the heat of summer, and the other through mire equally impassable, except during the dry months. A small outlay would procure a good and level road both for coal and lime.

Another great disadvantage is the want of a bridge over the Tweed, which, when swelled, as it frequently is, by the rains of winter, completely intercepts all communication betwixt the opposite banks. There can be no doubt but the farmers would pay better rents, if they were only favoured with better access to the markets, and to lime and coal. There is a post-office at Rachan Mill, about a mile distant.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is not very conveniently situated, being considerably farther from one end of the parish than the other. It is in a good state of repair, and may contain nearly 200 sitters. The average attendance is about 85 or 90. Young people generally communicate when about 15 or 16 years of age.

The manse was built in 1787, and has undergone several repairs. The glebe is ten Scots acres, worth L. 1 per acre.

The stipend consists of 89 bolls, 3 firlots, 3½ lippies, barley; 91 bolls, 1 firlot, 3 pecks, 1½ lippies, oatmeal; 10 bolls oatmeal for Dawick glebe, all allocated according to the old weights and measures. The teinds are exhausted. The average amount of stipend for the last three years has been L. 198, 8s. 8d.

This parish was united to Tweedsmuir previous to the year 1643; when they were disjoined, Dawick was suppressed in 1742; and part of it joined to Drummelzier, and part to Stobo. The glebe of Dawick and some servitudes are divided equally betwixt the ministers of Drummelzier and Stobo, for which they receive 10 bolls of oatmeal each, according to the Mid-Lothian fiars.

There are no dissenters of any description in the parish at present.

Education.—The parish school is the only one in the parish. At present there are no Latin scholars, though there was a considerable number a few years ago. English costs 2s. per quarter; with writing, 2s. 6d., with arithmetic, 3s. 6d., and with Latin, 4s. 6d. The salary is L. 32, and the teacher has all the legal accommodation. The average amount of school fees during the last three years is L. 10, 2s. 3d. The people are fully alive to the benefits of education, and all can read who are of age sufficient to attend school. Part of the population is betwixt three and five miles from the parish school, but are within reach of a school in the neighbouring parish. It is worthy of remark, that the session record, betwixt the years 1650 and 1660, bears, that the minister interrogated all

the elders, if they kept family worship, by reading the scriptures, &c. and they all answered, that they neither could read themselves, nor had any in their family who could read. On which the minister exhorted them to send their children to school, and in hiring servants, to try to get some who could read.

Poor and Parochial Funds—At present there is only one person receiving regular aid: his allowance is betwixt L. 2 and L. 3 per annum. There have occasionally been six or seven on the poors' roll, some receiving 3s. 6d. a-week. They are supported by weekly collections,—the interest of L. 40,—and occasional donations from the heritors. There was an assessment for several years, but there has been none since 1824. The average amount of collections for the last seven years is L. 10, 2s. per annum; average from other sources, L. 5. The heritors have always been ready to come forward most liberally in any case of particular distress.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In the last Statistical Account, Mr Welsh observes, that “few grass seeds are sown on account of the sheep, which are great enemies to them.” At present, the sowing of grass seeds (chiefly perennial rye-grass with clover) is universal. In 1790, a man-servant's wages were L. 6 a-year, a maid-servant's L. 3, 5s. Now, the man-servant receives from L. 10 to L. 12, and the maid-servant L. 6, with victuals. In 1790, a lamb cost 5s. or 6s.; now it costs about double of that sum. Sheep, if fat, cost 11s. in 1790; now they are sold at from 18s. to 20s. The ploughs used in 1790 were of the Scotch kind, few English being used, except by gentlemen or improvers, on account of the stony quality of the land. At present there is not a Scotch plough in the parish, and two horses are now universally used instead of four. The iron plough is become very common. In 1790, there were seven weavers in the parish; at present there is only one, and he has scarcely any work. There was then also a dyer, but at present there is none. The giving up of weaving and dyeing is one of the greatest changes that have taken place in parochial economy. It is found more profitable to purchase at once from the manufacturer. The turnip crops contribute much to improve the condition of both cattle and sheep. Ewe-milk cheese, of which a great quantity was made in 1790, is now almost entirely given up, as tending to injure the sheep. The introduction of thrashing-machines is an entire novelty since 1790, and they are now universally in use.

April 1834.

UNITED PARISHES OF BROUGHTON, GLENHOLM, & KILBUCHO.

PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. HAMILTON PAUL, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THIS parish, which comprehends the old parishes of Broughton and Glenholm, with the southern or larger division of Kilbucho, retains, agreeably to the provisions of the deed of annexation, all the three names.

Names—Boundaries.—The origin of the designation Glenholm is sufficiently obvious. Kilbucho spelled *Kilbeukhoe*, *Kilbochoe*, *Kilbocho*, and *Kirkbucho*, is supposed to be the Gaelic term for the cell or chapel of St Bede, the venerable church historian, or St Bega, the patroness of Kilbagie, or St Bees, in Cumberland. Broughton is by some alleged to be a corruption of Borough-town, and by others of Brook-town. More probably, however, as the plain in which the hamlet is situated is surrounded by hills, forming a complete amphitheatre, and as the term Brough or Bruch in the Scottish dialect means a circle, the name has taken its rise from this circumstance of locality; “the town or village within the brough or circle of hills.”

This united parish is bounded on the west and north-west by Culter and Skirling; by Kirkurd on the north; on the east and north-east by Stobo; and by Drummelzier on the south and south-east. The Tweed divides it from Drummelzier for about four miles. It is nine miles and a half in length, and three and a-half in breadth, containing a superficies of thirty square miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface of the ground is beautifully irregular, and were it as well wooded as many other districts, would be extremely picturesque in respect of scenery. It is remarkable that there are only three hills or detached insulated eminences in Tweeddale. Rachan Hill in Glenholm, which is one of

the three, is a lovely green solitary height, declining suddenly to the Tweed on the one side, and on the other rising with a gentle acclivity from Holms water. The rest of the eminences are continuous chains or mountainous ranges. One of these ridges, which separates Broughton from Stobo and Kirkurd, extends for more than three miles from south to north; another, which divides Glenholm from Kilbucho and Culter, runs for nearly five miles from north-east to south-west, and a third runs parallel with the Tweed in a southerly direction for upwards of three miles; a fourth range passes through the middle of the old parish of Kilbucho from east to west for about two miles; and a fifth, though of less elevation, divides the parish of Broughton into two unequal parts. These heights are in general steep, but accessible. Culterfell, which is partly in Glenholm, is 2430 feet above the level of the sea. Cardon, in the immediate neighbourhood, with Chapelgill attached to it, is nearly as high. The other remarkable heights are Mossfennan Wormwell, and Blakup, in Glenholm; Pyketstane and Broughton-hope in Broughton, which vary from 1500 to 1800 feet above the level of the sea; and Goseland in Kilbucho, of almost equal altitude. Between those chains or ridges above-mentioned are some fine fertile valleys.

Glenholm, in particular, is a delightful pastoral vale, stretching from the site of the old church about four miles, and intersected by a limpid stream, whose windings cheat the eye so as to render it doubtful whether it be flowing up or down the glen. Its tributary streams descend through Glenhigton, Glencotho, Glenkirk, and Glenlude. At the confluence of each of these rills with Holms water, stands the dwelling of a shepherd, around which a Sabbath-like serenity reigns, save when the gathering or shearing, or washing of the sheep takes place, as described by the poet,

" Urged to the giddy brink much is the toil,
The clamour much of men and boys, and dogs,
Ere the soft fearful people to the flood
Commit their woolly sides."

Biggar water, which forms the boundary betwixt the Broughton on the north, and the Glenholm and Kilbucho divisions of the parish on the south, pervades a tract of moss and meadow, receiving in its course the tribute of Kilbucho and Broughton burns, and Holms water; and after its junction with the last, becomes the boundary for half a mile betwixt Stobo and Glenholm. Broughton burn falls into it at a right angle from the north, and Kilbucho burn and Holms water at similar angles from the south or south-west, and

the united streams throw themselves into the Tweed opposite the spacious and fertile haugh of Drummelzier. Here all the streams of the three parishes are united, and the scene may, with propriety, be styled "the meeting of the waters."

Geology.—Ratshill, a singularly formed eminence near the village of Broughton, is composed of hard loose stones of a slaty appearance, a species of trap or tuffa, excellently adapted to the Macadamizing of highways. Attempts have been made to find coal in Broughton, Glenholm, and Kilbucho, without success; the prevailing rocks here being those of the transition class, coal was scarcely to be expected. The general character of the soil in this united parish is moss, clay, loam, with a considerable proportion of alluvial deposition. Beautiful pebbles are frequently found on the north side of Biggar water, but on the south side not a single specimen has ever been discovered. Porphyry and jasper in small masses are abundant; and gray whin or puddingstone in detached pieces is of frequent occurrence.

Soil.—The vales through which the streams already-mentioned flow are at the upper end generally of a mossy or coarse grassy character, but where they spread out at the lower ends into holm or haugh land, the soil is deep, rich, and adapted to any species of crop.

At the junction of Biggar water with Broughton burn, the soil rivals that of the finest carse lands, and where the Capolm meets these united streams, the alluvial deposits render the ground exceedingly fruitful. They require no manure, but yield the same white crops for five or six years successively, and these are in danger of lodging from their exuberant growth. But for their liability to be overflowed by the swellings of Biggar water, the fields would make an ample return of green crops. The potatoes have sometimes materially suffered from the inundations; and early frosts have proved fatal to the pease, as well as the potatoes.

Meteorology.—In winter, the thermometer varies from below zero to 40°, and in summer from 50° to 90°, and the barometer takes the whole range from 28° to 31°, or from great storm to very dry. The clouds assume every variety of shape, colour, and appearance. In the mornings, the valleys are often covered with a thick fog, which gradually ascends the hills, and is often the prelude to a hot sultry day. When the mist forms first on the hill tops, and descends towards the valleys, it prognosticates rain; when the clouds rise gradually around the horizon, and move towards the

zenith, or when a dark cloud, with a well-defined edge, hovers at no great height, we are sure to have a storm of thunder and lightning, and hail or rain. A luminous arch of electric matter extending nearly in the direction of the Milky Way has been seen three times at least within these twenty years, and mistaken by some unphilosophical observers for a lunar rainbow, but at the time there was no moon in our hemisphere, and the bow was in the zenith.

The climate is in general moist, and the atmosphere cloudy. Yet the improvements in agriculture, especially the draining of the bogs and cultivation of the mosses, have greatly improved the health of the inhabitants. Ague is now unknown, and many other maladies are either mitigated or exploded.

Diseases.—The principal disorders are fevers, typhus, inflammatory or rheumatic; colds accompanied with coughs, asthma, and consumption. Vaccination is almost universally practised. Stone and gravel are less prevalent than they were in days when strong ale was the favourite beverage. Gout is scarcely known. Cutaneous eruptions are by no means common. This must in a great measure be attributed to that weekly lustration which takes place among the church-going part of the community, preparatory to their attendance on public worship.

Longevity.—The instances of longevity are perhaps unparalleled among a people so limited in respect of numbers. About twelve years ago, there were living within the space of four square miles, four persons who were each considerably above eighty years of age. In Kilbucho, there were also four who had reached the borders of ninety. Four brothers were born at Broughton-Mill, who all weathered the frosts of fourscore winters. In the village, there are at present six individuals who have passed the promised age of threescore years and ten. In the country part of the parish, there are six persons between eighty and ninety years of age; and one man has lived to see six incumbents in the pastoral care of Broughton parish, though one of them was upwards of forty years minister. The oldest man in the united parish at present, and who is tolerably healthy, is eighty-nine, and the oldest woman, who also enjoys a comfortable share of bodily strength, is eighty-two years old.

Hydrography.—There are at Rachan two fine pieces of water, ornamented with wooded islets. The one is stocked with trout, and the other with perch. The latter is fringed round the margin with an aquatic plant called tench grass.

Of rivers we have none save the Tweed, which forms the southern

PEEBLES.

boundary of Glenholm ; as it has frequently changed its course, it sometimes happens, that a part of Drummelzier is on this, and a portion of Glenholm on the other, side of the stream.

The streams besides those already mentioned are Logan and Hollows burns, the one a tributary to Broughton burn, and the other to the Tweed.

Springs.—Few parishes are more highly favoured than this in regard to salubrious springs. Bede's or Bees well, as it is commonly called, was an open draw-well built round with stone, from which issued a plentiful current. The proprietor of the glebe of Kilbucho has covered it over with flags or flat stones and earth, so as to render the spot arable, and the water, by means of a conduit, spouts in abundance from the banks into the channel of the burn.

On the old glebe of Broughton, is a well with a large stone in the middle of it. The water which springs from one side of the stone is sweet, that which rises at the other side is brackish and medicinal.

Among the hills there are wells of which the water is so very cold, that in the heat of summer a person cannot hold his hand in it for more than a minute without suffering the pain of extreme cold. One spring is remarkable for reducing spirits without tinging them.

Mineralogy.—There is not much to engage the attention of the mineralogist in this quarter. The prevailing rock is greywacke (whinstone) ; some of the beds lie in a horizontal position ; but they in general dip towards the centre of the hills. In some places where a deep cut has been made for the improvement of the high road, the section offers to the view a variety of strata, consisting of water channel, greywacke, detached masses of granite and puddingstone, intermixed with narrow beds of sand, but with few or no crystals of quartz. Brick-clay is rare, and no sandstone is to be found. On the farm of Wrae in Glenholm are a limestone and slate quarry, which, owing to the great distance from coal, and the immediate neighbourhood of the Stobo slate quarry, would scarcely repay the expense of manufacturing the minerals. Slates are also found on Rachan hill, but, for the same reason, it has not been deemed advisable to work the mine. A bed of fine sand on the farm of Stirkfield in Broughton is admirably adapted to the intermixing with lime for building, and gravel-pits are numerous.

In the vale of Kilbucho lies an extensive moss, obviously formed by the decomposition of wood and other vegetable matter. The

peat is of excellent quality. Large trunks of oaks and other trees, in good preservation, have been found imbedded in the mosses.

Zoology.—Birds.—A single pair, resembling the *Saxicola rubetra* or whin-chat, come regularly every season and build their nest on the ground, close by the side of the road leading to the manse. They usually bring seven young ones, and when these are able to fly, they all take their departure hence. It may in general be said that we have as residents or occasional visitants some species of the following genera :—*Motacilla*, *Hirundo*, *Cuculus*, *Columba*, *Rallus*, *Alauda*, *Caprimulgus*, *Turdus*, *Corvus*, *Scolopax*, *Anas*, *Emberiza*, *Parus*, and *Fringilla*.

The only sleeper we know is the bat. All birds that feed exclusively on insects must either in winter repair to milder climates, or betake themselves to repose.

The birds of passage that visit us in winter are the fieldfare, the red-wing, the snow-flake, and the cock of the north, to which we may join the ring-ouzel, that stays only till the fruit of the mountain ash is exhausted.

The water-ouzel, which feeds on fish, remains with us all the year round. The opinion, that the male chaffinches leave this district in winter, seems to originate in a mistake. The young males have for the first season no gayer plumage than the females, and, consequently, during the winter the number of females appears to be altogether out of proportion to that of the males.

Wild-swans, wild-geese, and sea-mews are not so plentiful as formerly, owing to the same cause which has banished the wild-ducks, viz. the draining of the bogs and cultivation of the meadows. The snipes, for a similar reason, are less frequent than formerly. Magpies are natives; but the jay is seldom to be seen within our bounds.

Wood-pigeons are enemies to turnips, especially the ruta бага. In severe winters they collect in thousands, and eat up not only the leaves, but penetrate into the very heart of the plant. Green kail and cabbage, if planted at a distance from houses, are equally liable to their depredations. Pheasants, as well as crows, are peculiarly hurtful to potato crops: but a species of potato has been discovered that bids defiance to their ingenuity. It may be planted so deep as to be out of the reach of their mining bills, and yet springs up as well as those planted much nearer the surface. The jay and the bullfinch are particularly obnoxious to gardeners. It is uncertain, however, whether the latter are in search of insects that

devour the buds of fruit trees, or whether they eat up the hearts of the buds themselves. The weasel, though an enemy to the poultry, is in some respects a friend to the farmer. It kills the mice and rats which lodge in corn-stacks and infest the barns of the husbandman. The usefulness of the polecat is doubtful : it seems formed only for destruction. It has been known to kill and carry away dozens, and even scores of barn-door fowls in the course of a night. Frogs and efts, or newts, purify spring water, by feasting on the insects that would corrupt it ; and the lizard performs a similar office on land, by devouring those minute animals that prey on the leaves of plants. The heron, on the other hand, prevents the race of frogs from becoming too populous, in which he obtains the co-operation of ducks, wild and tame. A species of bird resembling the sea-mew is a constant attendant on the ploughman in spring, and eats up an incalculable number of grubs and worms. Tadpoles are infinite in number, but are kept down by the different species of water-fowl. .

In severe winters, especially in time of snow, the barn-yards are the common rendezvous of fowls of every wing ; and the loss to the farmer, if he dwell contiguous to a great man's preserve, is almost incredible, not only with regard to his stacks in winter, but his green and white crops in summer and harvest. The damage done by hares and pheasants has been ascertained to equal the rent of the farm.

Botany.—The brambleberry is scarcely known here, but the raspberry grows wild. Blaëberries are exceedingly abundant in Rachan woods, and on some of the heights. The whortleberry is also found on lofty places, along with the crane and crawberries. The sloethorn is to be found only at Mossfennan ; and wild roses flourish in many places.

Hazel-nuts have been found several feet below the surface of the ground, though there are hardly any hazel bushes existing at present in this quarter. Filberts are occasionally planted in the pleasure-grounds, but they seldom bring their fruit to maturity. The remains of a natural wood may be seen on the estate of Mossfennan ; but all the other trees in the parish have been planted, though formerly many of them were indigenous.

About half a century ago it was scarcely believed that any trees would thrive in this climate, except Scotch fir. John Loch, Esq. of Rachan, however, set the example ; and, besides fifty acres of Scotch fir, planted larches, and a variety of hard wood trees, which

have succeeded well. In one or two places there are trees of old standing. The soil appears friendly to the production of every species of tree, whether deciduous or evergreen; but the larches, Huntingdon willows, lime, and mountain ashes, shoot up most rapidly, and the ornamental shrubs are not backward. The oldest and largest trees in the parish are ashes. In some parts of the parish, where there were extensive plantations of Scotch fir, these trees have either died or been cut down by the hand of man. The soil, which is of a gravelly and sour description, appears to be peculiarly unfavourable to the growth of that species of plant.

The climate is also unfavourable to the ripening of the richer and more delicate species of fruit. At Mossfennan, Broughton Place, and the manse, are walled gardens, which sometimes yield a good crop of apples, pears, cherries, plums, and small fruit. The wall of the old garden at Kilbucho Place is in a dilapidated state, but the crop of apples and plums is often very abundant. In some other gardens, which are surrounded only by a hedge or paling, fruit-trees are sometimes sufficiently productive. At Mossfennan, where the garden has been recently formed, with a fine exposure to the mid-day sun, apples are reared that will stand comparison with the richest produce of the orchards of Clydesdale.

In former times every farm-house had its small orchard; and if proprietors would allot to every tenant a rood or two of land, free of rent, on the condition of his planting it with fruit-trees, the country would in a short time assume a more interesting aspect, and supply the people with many of the simple luxuries of rural life.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—The modern history of the parish can be gathered only from the parish registers, Dr Pennecuik's and Armstrong's Accounts of Tweeddale, and Findlater's Agricultural survey of Peebles-shire; and from the Statistical Account rendered to Sir John Sinclair, and another by a literary gentleman, a native of Glenholm, published in the Statistical Magazine of August 1819.

Eminent Persons.—The most remarkable characters connected with the district were, Secretary Murray, called the Apostate, who resided at Broughton Place, and whose history is well known:—Robert Macqueen of Braxfield, whose rigorous measures, when he was Lord Justice-Clerk, were supposed to have been amongst the means of saving this country from the horrors of a revolution.

Land-owners.—John Macqueen, Esq. of Braxfield, is sole pro-

prietor of Broughton. In Glenholm there are three residing heritors or families: Loch of Rachan, Welsh of Mossfennan, and Tweedie of Quarter. The non-resident heritors are, Sir John Hay of Hayston and Smithfield, Baronet, M. P.; Sir John Nasmyth of Posso, Baronet; Hunter of Polmood, and Seton of Dukepool.

The property of the last mentioned gentleman is in extent no more than a Scotch acre.*

Sir James Montgomery is proprietor of the eighth part of Glenkirk, amounting to L. 34 Scots of valuation. The heritors of Kilbucho are four in number, of whom three, namely, the Honourable Lord Medwyn, John Dickson, Esq. of Hartree and Kilbucho, and John Cuninghame, Esq. of Duchrae, are non-resident. The fourth, James Richardson, Esq. of Springfield, is proprietor of the old manse and glebe, on which he resides.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers go back as far as

* There is a curious, if not fabulous, tradition as to the mode in which this property was acquired. It runs thus: That, as one of the Scottish kings, (perhaps James IV.) who occasionally, during the hunting season, spent a few days at Polmood or Badlieu, was returning from one of those rambles, which he frequently undertook in disguise, he passed the castle of Drummelzier, the seat of Sir James Tweedie, who was in the habit of exacting homage, and levying tribute, from all passengers. The king came up to an old man, a cobbler, named Bartram, tending his cow, and amusing himself with a tune on the bagpipe. The monarch accepted an invitation to the cottage of his new acquaintance, where he was hospitably, but with homely fare, entertained by the cobbler and his wife. In the morning the king disclosed to his host who he was, and made him a grant of certain lands in view of his house, to the extent of fourteen acres, with the pool in the centre, to be called Drone instead of Duckpool, in memory of the tunes played on the bagpipe the evening before, and as much more ground at the foot of the Holms water as would keep a mare and a foal, with a brood sow and nine pigs, and a free passage for them to and from his house; and they were to be driven at no harder rate than a woman could walk knitting a stocking, or spinning on a rock or distaff. Bartram was also to have five souns of sheep on Holms common.

After the king, accompanied by the cobbler, who had offered to be his guide, passed the castle-gate without yielding the accustomed homage, they were immediately pursued and arrested by Sir James Tweedie and his armed followers. Thereupon, the king, taking a small bugle horn from his side, and sounding it, in the course of a few minutes four-and-twenty belted knights came from Badlieu to his assistance. The haughty feudal chief, having now discovered the dignity of his prisoner, fell on his knees, and implored the clemency of his sovereign, who forgave him for the present, but upbraided him with his tyranny and exactions, and commanded him against a certain day to attend his pleasure at the palace of Holyrood. The pool in the Tweed where the king was arrested is to this day known by the name of the Drone pool. It is near the march betwixt Badlieu and Glenbreck. The king charged Bartram to appear in his holyday array at Holyrood on the day appointed for Sir James Tweedie's trial, which he did, and was honoured with taking precedence of all the nobles on their entrance into the royal presence. Tweedie was tried for his offences, stripped of the greater part of his possessions and titles, and was the last descendant of the Frazers of Oliver that enjoyed the honour of knighthood. Lawrence Tweedie, Esq. of Oliver, is said to be the only surviving representative of that family. The property of Bartram, now called Dukepool, has dwindled down to its present dimensions, as is alleged, by the encroachment of the neighbouring proprietors. It is now the property of Mr Seaton, son-in-law to Mr John Bartram.

the year 1700. Large portions of them have been lost ; but they are now, and have for some years past been, exceedingly well kept, and it is in contemplation to make them more complete by a rigorous enforcement of insertion.

Antiquities.—Of the circular fortifications or enclosures called camps, there are traces of no less than nine. The most remarkable is, for reasons unknown, called Macbeth's castle. It was surrounded by two concentric walls and ditches. The exterior circumvallation was about half a furlong in circumference. It was probably a place of refuge for women, children, and cattle, during the incursions of the border marauders, or it might have been a baronial or feudal judgment seat. The lesser circular strongholds appear to have been beacons or alarm posts, as they were all placed in such a line of communication as to telegraph, as it were, tidings of invasion or threatened outrage with the least possible delay.*

On the side of a hill in Kilbucho, called Aiken or Oaken Brae, where there is not a single vestige of wood at present, an axe, differing a little in shape from those now in use, and greatly corroded with rust, was turned up by the plough a few years ago. It had doubtless been employed in felling the wood, especially the oaks, which grew there in former days when this country was almost an entire forest. A kind of battle-axe of mixed metal was ploughed up near the same spot, and an instrument of a similar metallic composition was discovered in the vicinity of Polmood, a hunting-seat of our ancient Scottish kings. It has perhaps been the lock of a cross-bow, as it has a spring and a trigger. A third axe was very lately found in Cloverhill, parish of Broughton, with a hose to receive the shaft.

Near the confluence of Biggar water with the Tweed, on the estate of Rachan, in the midst of a knoll or tumulus, stone coffins containing human skeletons were discovered about forty years ago. One of the bodies was of gigantic size, and had golden bracelets round its arms. At Logan a rude stone coffin was lately found, in which were the remains of a human being ; and at a place near the church, called the Gallow Knowe, a similar discovery was made. The bones are supposed to have belonged to a criminal or vassal executed there in feudal times.

A wedge or ring of gold of considerable weight was dug up by a farmer in the parish of Broughton. He sold it to a goldsmith

* See original MS. for some details as to the remains of churches, and of the mansion-houses that belonged to the proprietors before-named.

in Glasgow, and the price enabled him to pay at least a year's rent of his farm. An ancient candlestick, and some other articles of no great value, were disinterred near the ruins of the circular camp, called Macbeth's Castle. Stone hammers and axes, arrow heads of flint, whorls of stone for old women's distaffs, adder or elfstones, tobacco-pipes, called *cutties*, and other productions of primitive art, are frequently brought up to view by the plough or the spade.

Modern Buildings.—The more modern buildings are those of Rachan, Mossfennan, and Quarter, which, with some recent additions and improvements, are delightful residences. They are all embosomed in wood, and can bid defiance equally to the winter's blast and the summer's ray. Many of the farm-houses vie with those of the gentry in outward appearance and internal accommodation. Broughton Place, however, is, perhaps, the best finished house in this vicinity. It occupies a commanding station, amid full-grown woods, near the middle of an avenue of old trees half a-mile in length.

III.—POPULATION.*

| The population, according to Dr Webster, was in 1755, | Broughton. | Glenholm. | Half of Kilbucho.† | Total. |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| - | 367 | 392 | 139 | 899 |

* That the population of these parishes was greater in former times than at present, is evident from a document giving an account of a weapon-shawing on the Borrowmuir, or King's muir of Peebles, in presence of James Nasmyth of Posso, Sheriff-depute of the sherriffdom of Peebles, the 15th day of June 1627, when, among others, compared the Laird of Stenhope, absent himself, seven of his men present horsed, all with lances and swords, in the parish of Broughton.—The Laird of Haldon absent himself—John Waldon, his bailie present, in his name, accompanied with ten horsemen and twelve footmen, with lances and swords, in the parish of Broughton.—The Laird of Langlawhill, present, well-horsed with jack and steel bonnet, lance and sword, with thirteen horsemen with swords and lances, in the parish of Broughton.—John Paterson, portioner of Broughton-shield, present, well-horsed with lance and sword, parish of Broughton.—John Chisholm, Glenholm, for my Lord Earl of Wigton, well-horsed himself, accompanied with seven horsemen with lances and swords, dwelling on the said Noble Earl, his lands lying in the parish of Glenholm.—The Laird of Glenkirk, absent himself, four of his men present well-horsed with lances and swords, within the parish of Glenholm.—James Geddes of Rachan, present himself, well-horsed, with jack, steel-bonnet, sword and pistol, with five horsemen, with lances and sword, within the parish of Glenholm.—Adam Gillies, portioner of Whitslaid, present, well-horsed, with a lance and sword, in the parish of Glenholm.—William Brown of Logan, present, well-horsed, with lance and sword, and a horseman with nothing, parish of Glenholm.—William Tweedie, younger of Wrae, present, horsed with one horseman, both with lance and sword, parish of Glenholm.—Sir Archibald Murray of Darnhall, well-horsed, with a collet, accompanied with forty-two horsemen with lances and swords, ten jacks and steel bonnets, within the parish of Kilbucho and Eddlestone.—The Laird of Hartree, absent himself, ten of his men present, horsed, with lances and swords, parish of Kilbucho.—The two last mentioned can hardly be said to have belonged to this parish, as the great proportion of their property lay without its bounds.

† The half of Kilbucho is here assumed as the proportion of the southern division—but it is incorrect. The southern half, as it is called, is larger in extent and greater in

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|-------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Armstrong, | - | 1775, | - | 274 | 270 | 125 | 679 |
| Sir J. Sinclair, | - | 1791, | - | 264 | 300 | 181 | 745 |
| Government, | - | 1801, | - | 214 | 242 | 171 | 627 |
| | - | 1811, | - | 231 | 213 | 160 | 604 |
| | - | 1821, | - | 263 | 236 | 168 | 667 |
| | - | 1831, | - | 299 | 259 | 182 | 740 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| Males, | - | 1831, | - | 154 | 127 | 90 | 371 |
| Females, | - | | - | 145 | 132 | 92 | 369 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | 299 | 259 | 182 | 740 |

Broughton is the only village in the parish. Its inhabitants amount to 100, and they have varied very little in number for the last fifty years. The country population is of course 640.

1. Number of families in the parish, - - - 160
of families chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - 74
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 33
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, 20
of unmarried women, including widows upwards of 45, - 20
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last seven years, - 16
of deaths, exclusive of those buried in other parishes, 5
of marriages of parishioners only - - - 5
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age, - - - 280
upwards of 70, - - - 30

The families of independent fortune residing in the parish are 4, besides a gentleman's family who occasionally take up their abode, and an old gentleman, who has retired from public life.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is 10; and of those who draw an inferior rent, 3.

Character and Habits of the People.—The people are above the middle size. They excel in athletic exercises, and have gained prizes in the gymnastics of St Ronans. Harvest home, halloween, new-year's-day, and Valentine's eve, are observed with a kind of religious scrupulosity. In adorning their persons and decorating their cottages, they in general exhibit taste and neatness. The ordinary food of the common people is oatmeal porridge to breakfast; kale or broth, with sometimes a little animal food, to dinner; potatoes, whole or mashed; porridge or sowens, (a preparation from oatmeal siftings,) with milk, to supper, and frequently bread and cheese, or butter. Those who have little gardens attached to their dwellings have always a supply of wholesome culinary vegetables. Loaf-bread has almost superseded the use of oaten cakes. The farmers, who were wont to mess with their servants, have now their separate dining parlours.

Drinking bouts are less frequent and less protracted than they

population than the northern half, but the difference is not material. As the old parish of Kilbucho is in some respects still undivided, it would have been better to have given all its statistics in one return, particularizing the different proportions, but, owing to the misunderstanding, this could not be effected.

were in the days of our forefathers. Profane swearing is less fashionable, and fighting not so much in vogue. Few people enjoy the comforts of life and advantages of society more than the inhabitants of this district of country. They are equally remote from the refined luxuries of metropolitan life and the rusticity of clownish ignorance. They are social, convivial, hospitable, fond of reading, though without parish libraries,—the wealthy having small select libraries of their own, and the poorer the Bible and shorter catechism. Many of them are subscribers to a public library in Biggar.

Poachers are diminishing in numbers. Some fines have of late been imposed, which may operate as a check, and smuggling is greatly on the decline. A few years ago private distillation was practised among the neighbouring mountains.

During the last three years, there have been 9 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | |
|--|-------|
| This united parish contains 20,000 imperial acres, and one-fourth is in lea or under the plough, | 5000 |
| And one twentieth part capable of being cultivated, | 1000 |
| Capable of being cultivated with a profit, | 100 |
| The rest is meadow and hill pasture, | 14000 |
| In undivided common, | 40 |
| Under wood, | 250 |

The plantations consist chiefly of Scotch fir and larch, a considerable number of oaks, ashes, elms, beeches, limes, birches, alders, mountain ashes, and all the willow tribe are intermixed with evergreens, such as spruce and silver fir.

Rent of Land.—The value of the arable lands varies from L. 3 to 10s., and the average may be stated at L. 1, 5s. per acre. The highest rent of grazing per ox for the season, L. 6; the highest rent of grazing per cow, L. 5; sheep for the year, 7s.

Rate of Wages.—A ploughman's wages, L. 9, 15s., six bolls of meal, a cow's grass, and four carts of coal driven; shepherd's wages, cow, meal, and coal, as above, forty sheeps' grass, half a boll of potatoes planted; if a single man, he has only the sheeps' grass, with victuals and lodging in lieu of the rest. Maid-servants from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, 10s. the half year; a day-labourer in summer, 1s. 6d. per day, with victuals; wrights, masons, and other artisans 2s. a day, with victuals also; in winter a reduction takes place; tailors who go to families to work receive 1s. 6d. a-day and their food; weavers, 2d. 3d. 4d. 5d. 6d. and 7d. per yard, according to quality; peat-casters 1s. 6d. a day, with victuals,—women get only

1s. and their meat; reapers' wages vary exceedingly, according to the season, from 1s. to 2s., with victuals; hay-makers, men 1s., women 6d., with food; potatoe and turnip hoers, generally females, may be had for 6d. per day, with victuals, sometimes 10d.

Husbandry.—The system of husbandry carried on is agreeable to modern improvements. A rotation of crop is almost universally adopted. In breaking up the lea or pasture ground, which has lain for some seasons, the first crop or crops are oats or peas; next, turnips or potatoes; third, barley, among which rye-grass and clover seeds are sown; fourth, hay. Then it either remains in pasture for a few years, or a fresh rotation commences. When wheat is intended to be raised, previous summer fallowing is essential. The iron plough has in a great measure superseded the use of the old Scotch plough. The hurkle is used in strong foul land; seldom more than two horses are employed, and oxen are generally disused. The ploughmen display great skill, and make beautiful work. Robert Welsh, Esq. of Mossfennan, has recently improved thirty-six acres of moorland, which before yielded nothing but coarse heath, but now produces the most luxuriant crops under an approved course of rotation.

Thomas Tweedie, Esq. of Quarter, is giving a new face to his farm of Whitslaid, under the superintendence of a grieve or land-steward. He is renewing the fences, manuring with lime, putting down a number of additional plantations, and otherwise improving that portion of his estate, which in a few years will render it an ornament to this part of the country.

On the estate of Rachan, the Tweed, for about a mile, has been substantially embanked by William Loch, Esq. the proprietor; a considerable quantity of fine haugh or holm land is thus protected from the encroachments of the river. Other improvements of importance have been made on the estate of Kilbucho, more especially on that of Kilbucho Place, and on the glebe.

Neither the Fiorin grass nor the Lucerne has been cultivated to any extent. The mangel-wurzel has been raised on a very limited scale, and the Swedish turnip has fallen into disrepute. The globe turnip arrives at the greatest size, the yellow stands the winter best, and the red-topped holds a middle rank in the estimation of the farmer. By allowing these different varieties to grow to seed in the same field, some curious hybrids have been produced, surpassing any of the parents as esculents. A cross betwixt the yellow and globe has been tried with success.

Leases are generally granted for nineteen years, but farms purely of the store kind are let for fourteen years only. In some instances a break in the lease at the end of five, nine, or any other number of years is agreed on.

The chief hinderances to improvement are the non-residence of the proprietors, the distance from markets, coal, and lime; and to these may be added strict entails, which fetter both the landlord and the tenant.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce (exclusive of pasture) yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|
| 2000 acres wheat, barley, oats, pease, at L. 8 per acre, | L. 16000 | 0 | 0 |
| 90 acres potatoes, at L. 7 per acre, | 630 | 0 | 0 |
| 240 acres turnips, at L. 4 per do., | 960 | 0 | 0 |
| 189 acres sown grass, 85 do. meadow hay, | 941 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow grazed, or that may be grazed, for the season, and 5s. per ewe pastured, or that may be pastured, for the year, | 2400 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinnings of wood, | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| | L. 21231 | 0 | 0 |

Hardly any flax is raised in this parish. It is supposed to scourge the soil, and linen can be purchased at a moderate rate.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The principal cause of the great unevenness of the old public roads was a belief that it was next to impossible to make a path that could be travelled, through a bog, swamp, or morass. Yielding to this mistaken notion, the surveyor conducted his line up hill and down dale, wherever he could find a hard or rocky bottom, which was less injurious in its effects, at a time when wheel carriages were almost altogether unknown. Another cause was the desire of accommodating country gentlemen with regard to their parks, policies, and gardens. To avoid interfering with these, the road formed a semicircle, or went off at a right angle, thereby occasioning a loss to the public, and a delay to the traveller.

Under the management of a skilful and judicious superintendent, the line of toll-road is in a fair way of being greatly amended. Three miles of new road, from the village of Broughton to the northern extremity of the parish, has already been made at an expense of about L. 1000, and another of nearly two miles, farther south, is contracted for at L. 800 or thereby, and when the work shall be executed, the intercourse between the capital and the

provincial town will be facilitated, and the road will rival the best in the kingdom.

The mail from the south arrives at Broughton about half-past twelve noon; that from the north reaches the same place at one in the morning. Last summer, the Hero light-coach went and came every alternate day.

There is one toll-bar within the parish. The rates are, a horse, 3d.; cart with horse, 6d.; a gig or chaise with one horse, 9d.; a carriage with two horses, 1s. 6d.; with four, 3s.; with six, 4s. 6d.; black cattle, per score 1s. 8d.; sheep do. 4d., &c. The present rent is L. 124. It was only L. 100 last year.

The worst piece of road in this part of the County is from Peebles to Biggar through Broughton, but it is now in a fair way of soon being in a state of good repair. From the coal-works at Ponfeith to the Tweed in this vicinity, the tract is so level, that a rail-road or canal could be easily formed. A great proportion of the waters of the Clyde might, with very little effort, be brought to join the Tweed.

In the new road bill, it is proposed that a line from Peebles to Biggar shall be formed, whereby every inequality of surface may be avoided. Should this plan be executed, the English tourist may begin at Berwick upon Tweed, and proceed along a comparatively smooth, level, and delightful road, enjoying the whole of the beautiful and grand scenery of two of the finest rivers in the kingdom, and terminate his land journey at Greenock, whence he may voyage in steam-boats, and circumnavigate all the western islands of Scotland.

A survey has been taken of a rail-road from Glasgow to Kelso, which would pass through this parish, or a little to the north of it, to Peebles, and by the side of the Tweed to Kelso, and even to Berwick. As there are several iron-works not far distant, the material for the road might be had at a comparatively trifling expense.

The toll-road within the parish is eight miles in length: a parish road, part of the line from Peebles to Biggar, extends for about three miles, and another parish road runs for three miles and a-half through the southern part of Kilbucho, till it joins the roads leading to Biggar and Culter.

There are three bridges along which the turnpike road runs, one over Kilbucho, and another over Broughton burn, with a few

of less size over the smaller streams. They are kept in good repair, but the old ones are narrow and awkwardly placed.

Market-Town.—The nearest market town is Biggar, at the distance of five miles from Broughton village.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated in Kilbucho, and is very central for the united population. The most remote house in the parish is not five miles from the church. The church was built in 1804, exceedingly homely in its exterior, but very comfortable as a place of worship, with regard to its internal arrangement, and capable of accommodating 500 persons. The sittings are all free. Each of the heritors has his proportion of room for his own family and those of his tenants, and strangers are accommodated in the least crowded pews. The church is in a good state of repair.

The manse was built in 1815, and cost upwards of L. 1200. The situation chosen for the manse was in appearance the least eligible that could be selected. It was in the centre of a morass that could not be drained. The incumbent only was satisfied. It was objected to by both heritors and presbytery. Two or three old thorn bushes tried in vain to hide the nakedness of the scene. When the manse and offices were finished in a superior style, the heritors having added L. 100 of their own accord to the expense, over and above the original estimate and contract, the incumbent set to work, and with his own hands raised a wood in front, and at one of the ends of the house, which now almost prevents the mountain tops from being seen from the lower windows. Some of the birches, alders, limes, Huntingdon willows, and mountain ashes, are as thick as a man's waist, and from twenty to thirty feet in height. The oaks, ashes, larches, and spruces, are also in a thriving condition. The soil is favourable to the growth of thorn hedges and shrubs in general. Fruit-trees do not succeed so well, as the sub-soil is till, and when the roots reach it the tree degenerates.

The glebe of Broughton, which was an excamb in lieu of the old one, is in extent about 21 English acres, and is worth at least L. 2 an acre. The glebe of Glenholm consists of six acres, worth L. 3 each, but at present rented at only L. 15. The glebe of Kilbucho was sold: it contains about 10 acres, and brought L. 551. The interest of the purchase-money is divided betwixt the ministers of Culter and Broughton, &c. The principal ought to have been laid out in land to augment the present glebes, or,

had it not been for gross mismanagement, 5 per cent. might have been obtained. Being now lodged in the Royal Bank, the annual return is of course greatly diminished of late years.

The stipend was $12\frac{1}{2}$ chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. An augmentation of 2 chalders has been recently obtained.

The number of families attached to the Established church is 124,—number of persons rather more than 400. The Established church is exceedingly well attended. There are only four seceding or dissenting families in the parish, and two or three single persons; and two of these families have lately come to reside within the bounds. Three individuals only have gone over to the seceders or dissenters for the last twenty years. A considerable number of seceders and dissenters have returned to the bosom of the Established church within the same space of time. One or two connected with the Reformed Presbytery reside in the parish, and regularly attend the church. There are two or three individuals that affect no religious profession, and hardly ever enter a place of worship. We are occasionally favoured with a visitation from Itinerants, Independents, or members of the Congregational Union of Scotland. The inhabitants in general seem well affected to the Establishment.

Before quitting the subject of the church and manse, we may mention, that, when the heritors took the latter off the hands of the contractor, they drew up a paper, which was subscribed by the principal heritor as preses of the meeting, by which they consigned over the church, manse, and offices to the incumbent, empowering him, when anything went wrong, to employ a tradesman without calling any meeting of heritors, and to charge the expense to their account. The church has not cost them five shillings a-year since it was built, and the manse not fivepence. The road to the manse from the public road was made to the march of the glebe at the expense of the incumbent, and the rest at that of the public. It cost them about L. 24, and requires nothing to keep it up. The path to the church is along three wooden bridges, which are supported at little cost, as one of the heritors gives the wood for nothing; and the timber of another bridge over Broughton burn, forming a communication betwixt the manse and the village, is furnished by another heritor. The heritors hardly ever lend a deaf ear to any application for the advantage of the parish. The number of communicants is about 300.

The yearly contributions to religious or charitable purposes do not average above L. 2 per annum, exclusive of the subscriptions to the Biggar Bible Society.

Education.—Notwithstanding the annexation of the parishes, the three parochial schools continued on the former footing, subject to such alterations as the heritors and presbytery might judge proper. The branches professed, besides the ordinary, are Latin, geography, and practical mathematics. But Latin is getting out of fashion here. There is not a Latin scholar, that is a pupil, in the district.

The salary of each of the schoolmasters is L. 32, with a house and garden.

The school-fees at Broughton may amount to L. 20 ; at Glenholm to little more than L. 12 ; and at Kilbucko to about L. 15. The school of Kilbucko, owing to a most unhappy misunderstanding, is at present vacant, but well taught by an interim-teacher, who receives the emoluments.

The school wages are fixed at 2s. a quarter, for reading English ; 2s. 6d. for reading, writing, and arithmetic ; and 3s. for the higher branches.

A new school and schoolmaster's house have been recently built, but on a niggardly plan, in the parish of Kilbucko. Had the heritors at the time the annexation was completed, instead of demolishing the old manses, converted them into schools and schoolmasters' houses, they might have, at a small expense, provided ample accommodation to masters and scholars.

Few have attained to the age of fifteen who cannot both read and write. Access to education is granted to all. If the parents are unable to pay the fees they are paid by the public, or the children are taught gratis. Some of the old cannot write, but they can all read.

Friendly Society.—A friendly society was established in the year 1800, and is still in existence. Its stock amounts to about L. 200. Sick members are allowed 3s. 6d. a-week ; superannuated members, L. 2, 12s. per annum ; and widows, L. 1.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was instituted here in 1815, and has prospered. The deposits have averaged more than L. 100 a-year ; but, as many of the sums exceed the legal amount, the greater part has been withdrawn and deposited elsewhere. The great proportion of depositors are servants, especially females.

Poor.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| The regular paupers who receive parochial aid, at the rate of 5s. per month, are three, | L. 9 15 0 |
| Occasional, at the rate of 1s. 2 per annum, three, | 6 0 0 |
| Donations to accidental paupers, at the yearly average of | 5 0 0 |
| House rent to two, at L. 1, | 2 0 0 |
| Coals at the rate of 10s. 6d. a cart, 16 carts, | 8 8 0 |
| Relieving stranger paupers, with passes, &c. | 1 10 0 |
| Synod clerk and officer, | 0 10 6 |
| Presbytery clerk and officer, | 1 6 0 |
| Session-clerk, | 1 5 0 |
| Treasurer, | 1 0 0 |
| Collecting contributions from the heritors, once in three years or so, | 1 5 0 |
| To the precentor, who refuses to accept of any remuneration for his services, a present to the value of | 2 0 0 |
| Kirk-officer, who is also sexton, | 2 0 0 |
| Repairing bell chain, | 0 0 6 |
| Given to a soldier's wife, | 0 1 0 |
| Total disbursements in the year 1831, | L. 42 1 0 |
| Annual collections in church, | L. 24 1 0 |
| Interest of L. 186, of which L. 90 is a legacy left by the late Rev. W. Porteous, | 2 15 0 |
| Voluntary contributions by the heritors once in three years or so, of L. 25, | 8 6 8 |
| Mortcloth 14s. 4d., fines L. 1, | 1 14 4 |
| Donations from wealthy or non-residing heritors, less or more, | 5 5 0 |
| Total receipt for 1831, | L. 42 2 0 |

When the disbursements exceed the receipts, application is made to the heritors within the three years. No demur on the part of the heritors ever takes place. It may be added, that, at the commencement of winter, the farmers assess themselves in meal to the poor, to be given at a reduced rate, or for nothing; and that Mr Swan at Ponfeith coal-works gives occasionally a donation of coals, which the tenants lead free of expense.

It is not in general thought disgraceful to apply for parochial assistance. Some apply for relief from the poor's funds whose relations are by no means in indigent circumstances. But there are one or two who would rather almost starve than make their wants known.

Fair.—Broughton has an annual fair, held on the 3d of October. It was once a cattle-market, and distinguished by horse and foot races. It is now attended principally for the purpose of hiring servants, paying accounts, and fixing the prices of butter and cheese. The fair is held on the street of the village, and the stalls are overloaded with the produce of the orchards of Clydesdale and other merchandize.

Inns.—Each parish has its own inn. That of Broughton is a PEBBLES.

commodious house, with a court of offices in good repair. It forms a convenient stage betwixt Edinburgh and Moffat; and in the parish of Kilbucho a new inn was lately built. Rachan Mill is also a public-house, conveniently situated for the accommodation of the public, as it stands at the junction of the road from Peebles to Moffat with the great road from Edinburgh to Dumfries. There is also an alehouse in the village on a smaller scale.

Fuel.—The distance from fuel is one of the greatest drawbacks on the comforts of the public. The coal is mostly brought from Ponfeith, which is eighteen miles distant from the centre of the parish. Kilbucho moss supplies a number of the farmers there with peat. The thinnings of the plantations in the other two divisions of the parish afford a supply of fuel to a few of the neighbouring poor. The wood is not sold, but given to them gratis. 12 cwt. of coals may be purchased at the mouth of the pit for half-a-crown. The tolls are 1s. more, and when the carriage is paid for, the cart will cost 12s. 6d. When the peat-moss is at a considerable distance from the residence of the consumer, that species of fuel comes nearly as high as coal.

May 1834.

PARISH OF SKIRLING.

PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN ALPINE, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—THE name has at different periods been written *Scrawline*, *Skirlin*, *Scarlane*, and *Skirling*; but the origin of these various designations cannot now be traced with certainty. The parish is only about two miles and a-half in length, the same in breadth, and approaches nearly to a square. It is bounded on the east by Broughton; on the south by Kilbucho and Biggar; on the west by Biggar; and on the north by Dolphinton and Kirkurd.

The character of its surface is uneven, never rising into any great elevation, and never spreading out into any wide extent of plain. The soil is generally fertile; and with a very few spots excepted, where there is short heather, even those parts which have been undisturbed by the industry of man, are covered with a lively green.

Botany.—One rare plant was discovered about two years ago in this parish, named the *Asperula taurina*. It was found by a medical gentleman in a mouthful of grass plucked by his horse. It was examined by several eminent botanists, who expressed much astonishment at its being found in the open fields, and with difficulty believed that it was not the production of a garden, being found in this high latitude, and so far from the sea coast; where it grew, however, no garden had ever been.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—Very few facts are known as to the history of this parish. The earliest period to which any known record refers is the reign of King Robert Bruce, who granted to John Monfode the barony of Scrawline, with the advowson of the church; and in this family it seems to have continued a considerable time, for we find that a Margaret Monfode, granted an annuity* of two merks

* Robertson's Hist. Ind. pages 24 and 72.

Sterling, out of the lands of Scrawline, to a chaplain in the church of Dunmanyn,—which grant was confirmed by David II. in 1362. From this date there is nothing known till the sixteenth century, when the lands of Skirling, with those of Robertson, Newholm, and Heeds, in the parish of Dolphinton, were in the possession of the Cockburns.* Having passed from them, the barony appears to have descended with rapid succession from one family to another, for about a hundred years. In 1647, it belonged to Sir James Hamilton of Priestfield. Thence it passed to a Sir James Murray, probably one of the Murrays of Stanhope, who then held a powerful sway in this district. “In 1683, David Oswald of Dalders was infeft in the lands and barony of Scrawline.” At the revolution, the estate of Skirling was possessed by a General Douglas of the Queensberry family, who, according to tradition, † fell at the battle of the Boyne. Immediately after this, it was purchased by John first Earl of Hyndford, for his second son, the Honourable William Carmichael, and in that line it has continued ever since, the present sole proprietor of the parish being Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael of Skirling, Bart. ‡ great-grandson of the Honourable W. Carmichael by Helen, his eldest daughter, married to Sir J. Gibson of Durie.

Parochial Registers.—The date of the earliest parish record is the 6th of July 1654. From that time till the year 1674, the most pointed regularity seems to have been maintained, in recording every transaction connected with the session. Afterwards, to the close of that century, few entries appear to have been made. On the 23d of August 1700, regular registration again commences, and is carried on with care down to the 16th of March 1713, when it is again given up as to every thing except births: and that, too, ceases to be at-

* “In December 1513, a cause was heard by the Lords of Council, against William Cockburn, laird of Scrawline, for taking by violence a part of his own goods, which had been escheated and granted to Mathew Campbell, viz. three verdour beds, an arras bed, three pair of sheets, a buird-claith of Dornik, (a damask table-cloth,) six frocks of Dornik, a linen buird-claith, a feather bed, with a bolster and four cods (pillows), two verdour beds, a pair of fustian blankets, a ruff and curtains, two pair of sheets, one pair of blankets of small white, a feather bed and two saddles, with their reparings, all which goods extend by good estimation to thirty pounds Scottish money.—Parl. Record, page 538.

† The same tradition says, that immediately before his leaving Skirling, he called the inhabitants together. All were alarmed, supposing that in the night of feudal dominancy, which then was little diminished, he was about to draft the stoutest to share in the perils in which he was about to engage; but it was merely to take an affectionate farewell of them, and advise them to the maintenance of brotherly kindness till his return—a return never permitted.

‡ Retour book in the library of the Writers to the Signet; Wodrow's Hist. vol. iv. p. 245.

tended to in the month of April 1719, and in the last entry made the date is omitted. After this there is a complete chasm till 1750, from which period the records are regularly and carefully kept. The population being small, the parochial registers are not voluminous.

Antiquities.—Various ancient coins of the reigns of Adrian and Antoninus were found about twenty years ago near a place called Greatlaws, in the north-east quarter of the parish: they are now in the possession of Laurence Brown, Esq. of Edmonstone, Larnarkshire. Such, we are assured from the recollection of living witnesses who had seen them, were the dates of these coins: but nothing farther can be ascertained, as the original collector is dead, and they, through carelessness, are now intermingled with other similar relics of the past. Near the same spot, when opening up a new communication with the Edinburgh and Dumfries mail-road, about fifteen years ago, the labourers employed came upon some graves of very ancient construction. They had at each side, and at each end, a whinstone flag, and were covered with slabs of the same material. Human bones were found in them, but nothing to elucidate the time or the occasion of their formation.

In another district there are evident traces of a religious establishment belonging to Popish times. The very name by which the farm in which it is situated is at present known bears testimony to this,—Kirklawhill being clearly corrupted from Kirk-land-hill. Part of the ruins still remains. Its extent appears to have been considerable; but with what abbey it might be connected, and whether its chapel might be the one then called Dunmanyn, (Dunmanyn signifies in Celtic the hill of the maiden, or of the good maiden,) to which Margaret Monfode made a bequest for the support of a chaplain, when it flourished, and when it decayed, it is impossible to say, for its history is lost in obscurity.

Of the house or castle of Skirling, to which reference is made in the former Statistical Report, nothing now remains to arrest the stranger's eye. All that might give a melancholy interest to the spot is utterly swept away. Its very foundation-stones, embracing more than a rood of land, are removed, and the plough may be seen passing over, and cattle grazing, where lady fair once sat, and stalwart knight once trode. While, however, it has thus vanished away, something is still known as to the causes and progress of its decline. Its possessor in the sixteenth century, Sir James Cockburn of Skirling, was married to a sister of Lord Herries, and was

not only thus connected with Queen Mary's party, but even had the honourable station assigned to him of holding the castle of Edinburgh in her name, * and was appointed one of her commissioners at the conference at York. The downfall of her power was accordingly ruinous to him, and being deeply involved in the efforts made in behalf of the imprudent and unfortunate queen, he was peculiarly obnoxious to the triumphant party, and, by the command of the Regent Murray, his castle was demolished by a strong military force on the 12th of June 1568; and being thus overthrown it was never afterwards rebuilt and reinhabited, but was left to the destructive energies of time, and the unsparing hand of the spoiler till its desolation was completed. Though the property afterwards belonged to the Cockburns, they returned not to dwell in the ancient home of their fathers, but inhabited, as did likewise some of the succeeding proprietors, a house in the village, which, like its more venerable predecessor, has now also entirely disappeared.

Eminent Men.—Mr Howe, son to the late clergyman of this parish, has attained to high eminence in his profession as a painter. His panoramic representation of the Battle of Waterloo commanded general admiration at the time of its exhibition; and in the department of animal painting he stood for many years without a rival.—Nor must we pass over one who, though he was born, and continued in a humble sphere of life, is entitled to an honourable remembrance. In the disastrous days of the persecution under the cold-blooded Stuarts, Peter Gillies, of the Wauk Mill, Skirling, was one of those who were devoted unto death in the sacred cause. Having had a presbyterian minister preaching in his house, he was, in 1674, hunted from his home by Sir James Murray, the laird, and Mr James Buchan, the curate. For several years he wandered about from place to place. At last he was apprehended in the month of April 1685, at Muiravonside, was carried by the lawless soldiery to the west country, and, after endur-

* The castle of Edinburgh was surrendered to Cockburn of Skirling for the queen. The same day the wind blew away the weathercock of the steeple of St Giles. This, saith Birrel in his Diary, fulfilled an old prophecy,

Quhen Skirlin sall be captain,
The cock sall lose his tail.

In the Life of Queerr Mary, by H. G. Bell, Vol. ii. page 168, when reference is made to Anderson, Vol. iv. Part ii. page 33, Sir James Cockburn of Stirling is named among the commissioners: but this is a mistake, arising from the similarity of the orthography, the difficulty of deciphering old records, and from the prominence of the one place in our national history, while the other is almost unknown. Upon examining the original manuscript with this key, and comparing it with collateral facts, it will be found that it was Sir James Cockburn of Skirling.—The present celebrated Solicitor General is, we believe, one of the descendants of this family.

ing many insults, and much cruelty, was, on the 6th of May, executed at Mauchline. "No coffins" (saith the venerable Wodrow *) "were allowed, nor dead-clothes, but the soldiers and two countrymen made a hole in the earth, into which they cast him, together with other four, his fellow-martyrs."

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Dr Webster's Report in 1755 gives a population to this parish of | 335 |
| Armstrong's in 1775, | 230 |
| Former Statistical Account, | 234 |
| Government census in 1801, | 308 |
| 1811, | 310 |
| 1821, | 345 |
| 1831, | 358 |
| 2. There are residing in the village, | 98 |
| In the other parts of the parish, | 160 |
| 3. Yearly average of births for the last 7 years, | 37 |
| of deaths, | 3 |
| of marriages, | 24 |
| 4. The average number of persons under 15 years of age, | 126 |
| upwards of 70, | 10 |
| 5. There is one fatuous person in the class of persons betwixt 30 and 50. | |
| 6. Number of unmarried men upwards of 50, | 6 |
| of women upwards of 45, | 8 |
| 7. Number of families in the parish, | 64 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | 22 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | 17 |

It is worthy of remark, that there is one woman, a widow, in the parish, now in her ninety-fourth year, and that about two years ago the writer of this account met her in her own house, along with her three brothers and her sister, all children of the same father and mother, and all hale and healthy, though their united ages amounted to 438 years.

Character and Habits of the People.—As to the outward circumstances of the people of this parish we must report very favourably. While there are some who can afford to live in the most comfortable manner, there is the absence of every thing like squalid poverty; for, even in our humblest cottages, through the abounding beneficence of Sir Thomas G. Carmichael, poverty in its sterner features is not seen. The general fare of our peasantry, though plain, is agreeable and wholesome: and having in a reasonable degree the means of subsistence, and being enabled to clothe themselves in decent apparel, they show themselves contented with their condition and circumstances. They are at the same time cleanly in their habits, orderly in their deportment, and attentive to the observances, while many of them, I trust, are acquainted with the power, of religion.

During the last three years there has not been a single illegitimate birth in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—By a plan of the parish, taken by Mr Bell of Edinburgh, and lying in the possession of the proprietor at Castle-Craig, it appears that the measurement of the parish in Scotch acres is 2642. Of these there are under cultivation 2072 acres; 320 capable of a profitable cultivation, were the markets to become a little more favourable; and 250 incapable of a profitable cultivation; in undivided common, 8; under wood, 27. The trees planted are ash, elm, beech, plane, and fir of different descriptions.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land, per acre, is 15s.; of sheep-walk, 2s. 6d. per acre.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of labour for agricultural purposes is, for hired male-servants, per year, from L. 8 to L. 12; hired female do. in summer, from L. 3 to L. 3, 15s., and in winter, from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 5s.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—The few sheep kept are of the black-faced description, and form but an inconsiderable item. As stock, they have, we believe, received but little attention; but the dairy being here a principal source of income to the cultivators of the soil, the cows, chiefly of the Ayrshire breed, are objects of great care, and so attentive have the farmers been to their improvement, that at the neighbouring exhibition at Biggar not a few of the prizes annually fall among us.

Husbandry.—The system of cultivation pursued is of the most approved character. The rotation followed is that which has found most favour with experienced and intelligent judges in modern times. Lime, though brought from a distance, is much employed; and draining and irrigation, so far as they are practicable and profitable, are highly popular. From the spirit of activity introduced, there are not many acres remaining unreclaimed which could be cultivated with profit, while grain is so low in price; and there are a few spots now under the plough of a rather thin soil, which perhaps would yield a better return in pasture than in crop.

The farm-buildings, though not so excellent as in some other parts of the country, are in general commodious and suitable to the requirements of their occupants. The leases are ordinarily of nineteen years' duration; and though probably too short where there is much new land to be broken up, they seem sufficiently answerable in the circumstances in which husbandry has already been placed.

Produce.—As to the average gross amount of raw produce, we give the following as a probable approximation to the truth :

| | | | | |
|--|---|---------|---|---|
| Raised in the parish of oats and barley, value | - | L. 3088 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes and turnips, | - | 998 | 0 | 0 |
| Pasture, | - | 918 | 0 | 0 |
| Rye-grass and meadow-hay, | - | 610 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|---|---|
| Total yearly value of raw produce, | - | L. 5614 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|---|---|

The present rental of the parish is about L. 1500 a-year: but as nearly one-third of the parish is let on an old nineteen years' lease, a considerable rise may be expected at its termination.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is three miles; and there are five bridges. The means of communication are good, as we have excellent roads in all directions. The nearest market-town is Biggar, distant two miles.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is very conveniently situated, the house most distant from it being within two miles. At what time it was built it is impossible to say; but it seems to have undergone large repairs in the year 1720, and is at present in a state of decent repair. It has sittings for upwards of 200 persons: four of these are free; but as the people are very regular in their attendance, some families are complaining of a want of accommodation. Perhaps something might be done to remedy this evil, by a slight alteration of the allocation of seats.

The manse was built in 1803, and is commodious and elegant. The glebe is an excellent one, and has been made so chiefly by the exertions of the present incumbent. In the former Account of the parish, it is stated that the house of Skirling was surrounded by a morass: and when the present manse was erected, it was considered better to fix its site near to this, than to have it in the village, where the former one stood. In consequence of this, an exchange of land was proposed and effected under the authority of the presbytery,—twenty-four acres, from the difference in quality, being given for eight, the extent of the old glebe. This bog, or rather quagmire, (for into various parts of it neither man nor beast could then penetrate,) came thus into the minister's possession, and he, instantly and vigorously commencing a system of draining, and drawing the different springs to one point, from which they flow off in a considerable rivulet, has succeeded in reducing it to a dry and fertile state. A stronger proof of the improvement effected cannot be given, than by the simple statement, that though land generally cannot be rated higher, it was valued by good judges at L. 24 when

transferred to him, but is now worth L. 72 at a moderate calculation. It is now beyond doubt a great advantage to him, and this, with 14 chalders of victual, one half meal and the other half barley, together with L. 8, 6s. 8d. allowed for communion elements, forms the living of the incumbent. The stipend for 1832 amounted to L. 193, 4s.

The number of families and persons attending the Established church, and the chapels of dissenters, is as under:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of families attending the Established church, | 53 |
| of persons, - - - - - | 270 |
| of communicants, - - - - - | 160 |
| of families attending Burgher chapel, - - | 6 |
| of persons, - - - - - | 21 |
| of families attending Relief chapel, - - | 5 |
| of persons, - - - - - | 23 |

It may here be remarked, that what may be considered as the fluctuating population of the parish, the servants, adds considerably to the numerical strength of the dissenting interest, and that the children of some of the parents who belong to the dissenters are connecting themselves with the Established church.

Education.—There is only one school, the parochial, which, however, is quite sufficient for the accommodation of the parish. The branches of instruction taught in it are English, English grammar, writing, and arithmetic, practical mathematics, geography, Latin, and Greek. The schoolmaster has the full legal accommodations, the maximum salary, and may receive of school fees, on an average, nearly L. 26 per annum. There is a library belonging to the school, formed in 1828, and upheld by public subscriptions and collections. It contains 142 volumes, and appears to be much valued. The annual expense of education is, for English, 10s.; English and writing, 12s.; English, writing, arithmetic, &c. 14s.; Latin, 22s.; Latin and Greek, 24s.

The school is excellently taught and well attended, and if there be any cause of complaint, it is, that parents are too much inclined to take advantage of the improved mode of teaching to shorten the attendance of their children, and thus in some instances sacrifice the substantial benefit of their children for the present saving of a little money. There are only two persons in the parish upwards of 15 years of age who cannot read or write: one of these is from Ireland, and the other fatuous.

Friendly Society.—There is in the parish a friendly society for the mutual benefit of the members in sickness. It was instituted in 1800, and has 78 members. Its stock is L. 128, 2s. 11½d. It

gives an allowance of 3s. a-week for the first sixteen weeks of sickness, and 1s. 6d. a-week thereafter, with this proviso, to prevent injury to the society, that when any person shall have received L. 16, 13s. 8d., his claims shall thenceforth cease and determine. It is evidently a very useful institution, often aiding those in distress who would otherwise be cast upon the fund of common charity; and I have not the smallest doubt that it has a powerful effect in preserving that spirit of independence so beneficial to the interests of our country.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor upon the session's roll is five; weekly allowance to each, 1s. 3d.; annual amount of collections made in the church on their behalf, no mortcloth or extra profits included, L. 11, 10s. 6d. This is the only fund from which they are supplied, and any deficiencies that may occur are met by the liberality of Sir Thomas G. Carmichael, the proprietor. The number has been larger than usual for some years, and may be expected to decrease; but the diminution is to be looked for chiefly from the natural effects of time, in the removal of those advanced in life, of whom the list of paupers is at present principally made up, and not, we fear, in any indisposition generally to apply to this source of relief. It is still, without question, considered to a certain extent degrading to come upon the parish, and there are some who would submit to very severe privations ere they would consent to receive public aid; but the feeling of delicacy upon this point is certainly not nearly so intense as it was in former times.

Prisons.—There is a jail in the parish, the proprietor having a baron-bailie appointed, who has the power of imprisoning for forty-eight hours, but fortunately it is required only for holding the mortsafes and other parochial implements.

Fairs.—There are fairs held here on the third Tuesday after the 11th of May, on the first Wednesday after the 11th of June, and on the 15th of September. The first of these is a small market now limited to cattle, but the other two, especially that in June, have a large attendance of queys, cows, and horses, and there is much business done. At a former period we had a fair also on the Tuesday before the 12th of May, which now has no existence save in the almanack, and at a still more remote date the market for sheep, hogs, now held at Linton the day before the third Wednesday after the 11th of June, was held at Skirling. The traces of the bughts are still to be seen, and not long since an aged person died who recollected distinctly his having seen more than once

the bustle of the sheep fair. Why it was removed cannot now be accurately ascertained, but it may possibly be accounted for, in the tendency of the seller in dull times to draw towards the buyer; and about eighty or ninety years ago, the demand being small might induce store farmers to make a nearer approach to those arable districts of the country, where they could secure an outlet for the extra produce of their stock.

Inns.—There are two inns, clean and comfortable, for the accommodation of the people attending the markets.

Fuel.—There is scarcely such a thing as peat, the principal if not sole fuel being coal. It is brought from Douglas and Wilsontown, both places being nearly fourteen miles distant. In consequence of the long drive, it costs when laid down here at the rate of 2s. 4d. per load, or about 8d. per cwt. By the wealthier this evil is not so sensibly felt, but it presses hard upon the poorer class, and were it not for the attention of Sir T. Carmichael in clearing all the direct outlay, and of the tenantry in driving coals for them, they would necessarily and frequently find themselves sufferers from the inclemency of winter.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In the Statistical Account given by the late Rev. Mr Howe, it is stated that every farmer sowed five or six lippies of flax seed, and those having small possessions and even cottages two or three lippies, but now this article has scarcely a name among the productions of the parish. Cottagers and smaller tenants grow no lint, and it is rarely to be met with on any of the larger farms, as it is considered more profitable to purchase it dressed or manufactured into the fabric than to incur the necessary expenses of raising it at home. The great advance of rent not only intimates that changes favourable to the prosperity of the nation have been passing during the last forty years, but likewise that agricultural industry and improvement have been progressing. The ten smaller possessions around the village which formerly were rented at L. 1 and L. 1, 5s. an acre, now rate as high as L. 3 and L. 4; and the average rental over the whole parish, instead of 4s. is now 15s.; while, from any thing we can learn, the tenant has far less difficulty in answering the money demands made upon him by the proprietor, and has received a mighty addition to his personal, family, and domestic comforts.

But though much has already been done, there are still improvements of great benefit which remain to be accomplished. Within

these thirty years, at great expense, and with much labour in banking and draining, upwards of 100 acres have been raised from a boggy barren condition, yielding a little coarse dry hay, into a very productive state, and, by deepening Biggar water, which lies on the southern boundary, eighteen inches or two feet, up from Broughton bridge, that already reclaimed would be rendered a great deal more fertile, and more would be recovered in this parish, while in those adjacent several hundred acres would be gained. The thing has been proposed, and we have no doubt as to its ultimate accomplishment.

There is another thing which demands attention, and that is the present want of plantations and fences. Were these in greater abundance, while they would afford shelter, a thing greatly needed generally in Scotland, they would likewise render Skirling one of the sweetest parishes in her mountainous domains; nor are we without good expectations that this will not be long overlooked. There are a number of farms let upon tacks of fifty-seven years' duration, and these, unfortunately, are so scattered up and down, as every where to fetter the proprietor in the free exercise of his pleasure, but they are now drawing to a close; and from the well-known disposition of Sir Thomas Carmichael to do what is for the advantage of his estates, and from what he has actually done on his property in the parish of Kirkurd, we anticipate the period when the ditcher shall be preparing the thorn-bed, and the diker shall be plying his hammer, and the planter his spade, and the bleakness of the unenclosed plain, and the unwooded hill, shall no longer glare upon the eye of the observer.

May 1834.

PARISH OF MANNER.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND Tweeddale.

THE REV. JAMES CRUICKSHANK, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—THE name of this parish is at present spelt *Manner* or *Manor* ; but it appears from the parochial registers, of which the earliest entry is dated 1663,—and from a great number of family papers in the possession of the principal heritor, some of which are dated 1573,—that the first-mentioned orthography was established by the usage of centuries, and continued until the publication of the last parochial Account. The origin of the name is uncertain.

The parish extends from S. W. to N. E. nine miles, and averages about three. It is bounded on the N. E. by Peebles ; on the S. E. by Yarrow ; on the S. by Megget ; on the S. W. by Drummelzier ; and on the W. and N. W. by Stobo. The district consists of the vale which is traversed by the stream called “ Manner Water,” and of part of the mountainous range which skirts it on either side.

Topographical Appearances.—The rivulet just named takes its rise among the mountains which bound the parish towards the south, and pursuing a rapid and circuitous course, falls into the Tweed, about two miles above the town of Peebles. Two hills, of which one is wholly and the other partly situated in this parish, stand unconnected with the neighbouring range, and, excepting a similar one in an adjoining parish, are the only hills of this description which are to be found within the limits of the county.

The acclivities of the several hills composing the chain are in general steep ; and some of the cliffs fronting the stream near its source, and approaching closely to each other, are very lofty and precipitous. The outline of the less elevated part of the range is undulating, while the loftiest summits are *round-backed*. The highest peaks are those of Dollar-law and Scrape, from which an extensive view is commanded of the Lothians, Berwickshire, and

the English borders. The former of these eminences, according to Armstrong, is 2840 feet above the level of the sea, and is, therefore, higher than Hartfell in the adjoining parish of Tweedsmuir. The lower part of the range may vary from 1600 to 1900 feet above the sea-level.

Meteorology.—Cold easterly winds often prevail during the spring; but the most prevalent are the S. and S. W. winds,—the position of the hills on either side of the deep valley giving a direction to the current of air, which sweeps down through it as through a funnel, and frequently with terrific violence.

The climate at such a lofty elevation is of course comparatively late, though the harvest in this parish is earlier than in some others which are contiguous,—a fact which may be accounted for by the peculiar position and configuration of the hills, from the steep acclivities of which,—covered in many places with loose stones,—the rays of the sun are reflected in summer with great intensity on the cultivated grounds beneath. The frosts, however, are early and long continued; and the district is exposed to a kind of partial frost in the end of August and beginning of September, which chiefly affects the low-lying lands on the border of the stream. It counterbalances in some degree the disadvantages of the climate, that the air is particularly dry and salubrious, and epidemical diseases are almost unknown to the inhabitants of this parish.

Geology and Mineralogy.—Wherever the rock of which the mountain-range is composed breaks the surface, it consists almost entirely of greywacke. As the rock is exposed but in a few places to such an extent as to admit of accurate and sufficiently numerous observations being made with regard to the position of its strata, which in some localities are variously waved, there is considerable difficulty in distinguishing their *partial* from their *general* direction and inclination. On comparing the results of many particular observations, it appears that the general direction of the strata is north and south, and that they dip to the west, forming an angle of inclination amounting to nearly 45°. A bed of clay-slate, in some places much indurated, ranging from one to five feet in thickness, and preserving the same general direction, dip, and inclination, as those of the circumjacent greywacke, runs across the lower extremity of this parish, and seems to communicate with the slate formation in the adjoining parish of Stobo.

The greywacke has not been quarried to any considerable extent, and few imbedded minerals have been detected.

Very rich specimens of galena have been found in *boulders* in the channel of the stream, and the existence of it *in situ*, in one particular spot, has also been ascertained; but though an attempt to mine it was at one time commenced, it was ultimately abandoned.

From the centre of the vale towards its north-eastern extremity, which is bounded by the Tweed, there occur alluvial deposits of considerable extent, consisting principally of clay and loam. On grounds of every elevation in the parish, but chiefly in the higher districts, and often on a declivity, moss is found deposited in beds varying in depth from one to ten feet,—that part of it which lies lowest being perfectly black and of great solidity, while towards the surface it is in most cases spongy, and of a brownish colour. Along the margin of the stream, the deposits are chiefly of gravel, with an occasional thin stratum of moss, lying on a thick substratum of blue clay.

Soils.—On some of the more elevated pasture-grounds, the soil is principally composed of moss, with a small admixture of sand, and gives sustenance to little beside heath; but the most extensive portion of pasture-ground, and that also which is of greatest elevation, consists of soil but slightly impregnated with moss, and which is favourable to the growth of grasses. These grasses accordingly cover its whole extent, except where, on steep declivities, loose fragments of stone in extensive masses impede vegetation.

Where the hilly ridges begin to decline into the valley, there predominates a thin soil of sand and clay, slightly mingled with loam, resting on a subsoil of gravel; and of this character is a great proportion of the land which has been brought under cultivation.

The clayey and loamy soils, which occupy the flats and the gentle acclivities towards the lower extremity of the parish, are in general of inconsiderable depth.

Zoology.—The following is a list of quadrupeds and birds that have been seen in the parish, which are either rare in Scotland, or the comparative numerical distribution of which it may be desirable to ascertain.

QUADRUPEDS.

Erinaceus Europæus, Hedgehog.
Lepus cuniculus, Rabbit. Not abundant.
 ——— *variabilis*, Alpine hare.
Mustela lutra, Otter. Very abundant
 a few years ago, but rarer now.
Mustela erminea, Ermine.
 ——— *putorius*, Polecat.
 ——— *vulgaris*, Weasel. Abundant.
Mus Norvegicus vel decumanus, Brown

rat. The Black rat, *Mus rattus*, is
 extinct.
Sciurus vulgaris, Squirrel. Introduced
 on the North Esk from England. Ra-
 ther rare.
Ursus meles, Badger. Seen occasion-
 ally.

BIRDS.

Alcedo ispida, King-fisher. One (a cock)
 seen last summer, and a pair was shot

three years ago. About thirty years since they were not so rare as they are now.

Anas boschas, Wild duck. Abundant.

— *crecca*, Teal. Very abundant, especially when the winter is severe.

Ardea major, Heron.

Caprimulgus Europæus, Goat-sucker. One shot three years ago.

Falco cyaneus, Blue-hawk or Hen-harrier.

Falco Esalon, Merlin.

— *Nisus*, Sparrow-hawk.

— *peregrinus*, Hunting-hawk. Builds regularly on Posso Craigs. This was a royal eyrie during the reign of some of the last of the Jameses; and the breed of hawks procured from it was in such high repute as to be esteemed superior to any in Scotland, and equal to the finest brought from Norway.

Falco pygargus. The Ring-tail is the female *Falco pygargus*, and is often mistaken for a different species.

Fringilla Carduelis, Goldfinch. This bird had become very rare here, as it has in most districts of Scotland, but this winter a great number has been seen.

Loxia pyrrhula, Bulfinch. Common.

Phasianus Colchicus, Pheasant. Abundant.

Rallus crex, Corn-rail. Common.

Scolopax arquata, Curlew. Plentiful.

— *gallinago*, Snipe. Do.

— *rusticola*, Woodcock. Rather rare.

Strix flammea, Barn or White owl.

— *otus*, Horned do. Seen not unfrequently.

Strix aluco, Grey do. Frequently seen.

Sturnus cinclus, Water Ouzel.

Tetrao Scoticus, Red Grouse. } abundant

— *Tetrix*, Black-cock. } ant.

Turdus Merula, Blackbird. }

— *musicus*, Thrush. } numerous

— *pilaris*, Fieldfare. }

— *torquatus*, Ring Ouzel.

Vultur albicilla, more correctly designated *Falco albicilla*, the Earne, once frequented the cliffs at the head of the parish, but disappeared from it several years since.

In a late edition of White's Natural History of Selborne, the editor enumerates several accidental varieties of British birds, among which he had himself seen a mottled blackbird, white crows, a white robin, a white sparrow, and a white jackdaw. Similar varieties of the pheasant have been noticed here for several successive years, some entirely white, and others pied or speckled. Four birds, two of them white and the others variegated, have been seen in the same covey.

Fishes.—Salmon come up the "Manner water" in great abundance to deposit their spawn, about the month of October; and we are afraid that few of them are allowed to return to sea. When the stream has subsided after a flood, and become sufficiently clear to admit of the fish being seen, bands of poachers, armed with their long-shafted tridents, (called "leisters,") may be seen, sometimes during the day, but oftener by the red glare of their torches during the night, beating every foot of the water for their prey, which, after a fatiguing run of sixty miles, are transfixed without much effort at escape. The number of fishes which, from the month of October to that of February, are thus slaughtered in an unwholesome condition, and generally before they have time to spawn, is almost incredible. Upwards to the source of the Tweed, and a considerable way down the river, as well as in many of its tribu-

taries which are of sufficient size to allow the salmon to ascend, this practice prevails,—very partially, if at all, checked by the proprietors, who might be supposed to have an interest in putting into effect the existing laws against such offenders. The fact is,—so few salmon find their way during the open season above the site of the various fisheries on the Tweed, that the proprietors of land situated farther up the river have no interest in their preservation during the period of spawning; and hence this system of poaching continues to check, in an incalculable degree, the increase of this valuable fish, and to encourage the worthless habits of the many idlers who, during the winter months, thus injure their health and dissipate their time.

About fifteen or twenty years ago, this parish was reckoned one of the finest localities in Scotland for angling, but within that period, the notoriety of “Manner water” has attracted so many anglers to its banks, and it has been so often and unsparingly swept by the small hoop and drag-net of the poacher, that except in autumn, when a few salmon and sea-trout make their way up, little is to be found except *pars*, which still swarm in shoals. The fine yellow and dark-coloured *burn* trout, once so abundant in the Manner, are now scarcely to be seen here, except in the deep pools of some of its small tributaries.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Persons.—We are not aware of any very eminent character connected with this parish, unless David Ritchie, the well-known prototype of the “Black Dwarf,” is to be considered as such. With this individual Sir W. Scott became acquainted in the course of his frequent visits at Hallyards, the seat of the late venerable Professor Ferguson. He was buried in the churchyard of Manner: his cottage and garden walls built by himself, and now objects of interest to the tourist, are preserved in exactly the same state as when he died.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, James Burnett, Esq. of Barns; Sir John Nasmyth of Posso; Thomas Horsburgh, Esq. of that Ilk; Andrew Ballantine, Esq. of Woodhouse; John Ker, Esq. of Hundleshope; Mungo Campbell, Esq. of Hallyards and Ballenridge.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest entry in these registers, which seem in some respects to have been kept with considerable regularity, is dated 1663.

Antiquities.—There exist within the parish the remains of two

ancient camps, so considerable in extent, and of such distinct configuration, that a circumstantial account of them seems to deserve a place here, especially as the more remarkable of the two does not appear to have been noticed in any previous publication, and as the origin of the other, which has been alluded to by several writers, has been, by all of them, certainly mistaken. The more extensive camp is situated near the farm-house of Cademuir, and must have commanded the pass which diverges from the vale of Manner, and leads eastward in the direction of Peebles. A steep and lofty hill rises on either side of the camp, and at a little distance from it; and a morass, existing within the memory of some of the present inhabitants, extended from the foot of either hill to the extremities of the circumvallations. These last, which are semicircular mounds of earth, and which, by that form, seem to indicate that they are of British or Danish origin, consist of an interior semicircle, measuring about 80 paces from the one extremity to the other, and of four curvilinear fortifications, about 5 paces broad, as many high, and 106 in length. A road, 5 paces in breadth, leads from the centre of the inner semicircle, directly west, and bisects the exterior lines, which are 12 paces apart. If any trenches and mounds corresponding to these and connected with them, existed on the east, they have disappeared.

The other camp occupies a commanding site upon Chester's hill, a steep conical eminence, nearly a mile distant from the intrenchments which we have described. The fortifications consist of loose stones piled upon each other to a breadth varying from 9 to 11 paces, and within the last twenty years, were upwards of 5 feet high. The exterior wall is of an elliptical figure and measures 222 paces in circumference, within which there is another wall of a circular shape, occupying nearly the whole breadth of the circumscribing fortification, and, forming of course two crescents at the extremities of the latter. Within the compass of the circle, the ground seems to have been hollowed out artificially, the excavation deepening towards the centre. In the last Statistical Account of the parish, and in a Gazetteer lately published of some celebrity, these are pronounced to be the remains of a Roman camp: and it is also stated in these publications that an urn containing a quantity of Roman coins was dug out of the ruins several years ago. It is now very difficult to find any of these coins, but one which was examined by the writer of this account proved, to his surprise, to be an English coin, and bore the name of one of

the Edwards, clearly enough impressed around its border. This fact, as well as the form of the circumvallations, which differs from that of all the camps which are certainly known to have been formed by the Romans, and which were invariably quadrilateral, forbids the supposition that the one which we are describing is of Roman origin,—an idea very likely to have been originally suggested by the name “Chesters,” which might seem to be a corruption of the Latin “Castra.”

While upon this subject we may add, that several silver coins of Queen Elizabeth have been found by workmen engaged in making roads near the camp on Chesters hill.

Besides the fortifications already-mentioned, three other circular entrenchments, of much smaller dimensions, are severally visible upon Houndhill, Woodhouse, and Ring-knoll of Hall-Manner; but these appear to have been erected for the protection of live-stock during the incursions of the English, which, owing to the proximity of this district to the borders of England, were very frequent.

There still remain the ruins of some of the fortified residences of the chieftains; which formed a confederate chain of beacon-towers, extending from one extremity of the parish to the other, and from whose fire-proof summits the signals of smoke by day, and fire during the night, proclaimed, in the course of a few minutes, to the whole inhabitants of the vale, the approach of the English moss-troopers. Of these towers, there were originally six, succeeding each other in the following order,—the first mentioned being situated at the head of the parish: Mannerhead, Dollarburn, Langhaugh, Horse-hope-shank, Castle-hill, and Caverhill. This last communicated with Niedpath castle on the Tweed downwards, and with the beacon-tower at Lyne upwards, which was the first in that direction both for Tweed and Lyne “water.” In addition to these, there were houses of defence, (Peel-houses,) at St Gordian’s or Gorgham’s kirk, Old Posso, Glenrath, town of Manner, Woodhouse, and Barns,—the last of which is still preserved entire. That at Posso seems to have been more extensive and modern than the others; and the one at Town of Manner was generally called the Temple House, from the circumstance of it, and part of the adjoining lands, having at one time belonged to the knights of that order.

The route which was pursued by the border freebooters, against whose incursions this defensive system was chiefly adopted, is still distinguished by the name of the “Thief’s Road.” It passes along

the heights of Mannerhead and Dollar-Law to the north end of Scrape, and crossing Tweed below Stobo, runs northward in the direction of Lyne, Newlands, and Linton. Dollar-Law, just mentioned, seems to have derived its name from being the site of a battle, and was popularly called Dolefu' Law or Doleur-Law.

The antiquities which remain to be noticed are, the *Standing Stone*, a rude obelisk, "with uncouth sculpture deck'd," which, having been removed from the situation which it originally occupied, was built into the wall by the side of the parish road, and is supposed to be an aboriginal monument; the "Font Stone" which stood in St Gordian's chapel "while yet the church was Rome's," but was afterwards removed to mark the spot where three lairds' lands met; the "Giant's Grave," a tumulus which has never been opened; and, lastly, "some appearance of a building," says Armstrong, "on the summit of Woodhill, called *Macbeth's Castle*," but which, that statist, in despair of making any thing of the vague popular tradition respecting the famed Scottish tyrant, believes to have been consecrated for the worship of Woden by the Druids, whose memory cannot be held in sufficient reverence, for the relief which they afford to many a puzzled antiquary.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. In 1755, the whole number of persons in the parish amounted to | 390 |
| and in 1791, to | 229 |
| In 1811, it amounted to | 302 |
| In 1821, to | 324 |
| In 1831, | 254 |
| 2. The yearly average of births for the last four years, | 9 |
| of deaths, | 2½ |
| of marriages, | 2½ |
| 3. The average number of persons under 15 years of age, | 95 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 81 |
| betwixt 30 and 50, | 48 |
| betwixt 50 and 70, | 12 |
| upwards of 70, | 2 |
| 4. Number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | 6 |
| 5. Number of families, | 41 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | 34 |
| in trade and manufactures, | 6 |
| Average number of children in each family, | 5 |
| 6. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, | 2 |

Character of the People.—From the nature of their employments shepherds have occasionally a good deal of leisure, which that class of individuals in this parish (and they form a very remarkable part of its population) devote to the improvement of their minds by reading, instead of indulging in idleness or immorality: and of them, and of the people in general, it may be justly said, that their cha-

racter, intellectual as well as moral, stands deservedly high. They testify a deep and habitual regard to the public ordinances of religion; and there appears to be good reason for believing, that the "form of godliness," which is so prevalent among them, is intimately and extensively associated with its "power." Such is their general character: but it must be added, that 3 illegitimate births have occurred in the parish during the last three years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

| | |
|---|------|
| The number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is | 1630 |
| The number of acres that might be cultivated with a profitable application of capital, | 200 |
| Number of acres under wood, | 400 |

The number of acres in pasture cannot be correctly stated.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land in the parish may be estimated at L. 1, 5s. per acre. The average rent of grazing a full-grown sheep, pastured for the year, 5s. At the time of the last Statistical Account, the rental of the parish was L. 1685; now it is L. 4145.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—A large proportion of the sheep in the parish, which amount in whole to about 7400, is of the *black-faced* or mountain breed; but some of the farmers have introduced a cross-breed between these and the Cheviot stock, and the former have thus been very much improved. Upwards of a third of the whole stock in this parish consists of the breed formed by this cross. During the last war, when high prices were obtained for the wool of Cheviot sheep, an attempt was made to domesticate this species, on the higher and more exposed pasture-grounds, but, in consequence of their delicacy, they were not found to thrive. It is thought, that if care had been taken to *breed in* the stock gradually, the experiment would have met with that success which has attended it when made in some similar districts. The short-horned breed of cattle introduced by Mr Burnett of Barns is now in great demand.

Since the publication of last report, very extensive improvements have been made in draining and reclaiming waste land. At the period alluded to, there were very few enclosures; but at present, the whole of the land which is of good quality is well enclosed and subdivided. Irrigation has been successfully practised to some extent.

The great improvements which we have alluded to as having

taken place in the agricultural state of the parish have been principally brought about by Mr Burnett, to whom a third part of the property in it belongs. Besides greatly ameliorating his land by draining and fencing in the most admirable manner, he has reclaimed an immense portion of waste ground, and planted more than two-thirds of the whole wood in the parish. The very extensive farm of Haswellsikes, belonging to this gentleman, and farmed by himself, deserves to be especially noticed, as exhibiting, perhaps, the finest model of agricultural management which is to be seen in the county.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| 255 qrs. of wheat, | - | - | - | - | L. 637 10 0 |
| 500 do. barley, | - | - | - | - | 700 0 0 |
| 500 do. peas, | - | - | - | - | 650 0 0 |
| 1000 do. oats, | - | - | - | - | 900 0 0 |
| 828 bolls potatoes, at 7s. per boll, | - | - | - | - | 289 16 0 |
| 189 acres turnip, at L. 2 10s. per acre, | - | - | - | - | 347 10 0 |
| 10400 stones meadow-hay, at 3d. per stone, | - | - | - | - | 180 0 0 |
| 2720 stones clover-hay, at 6d. | - | - | - | - | 68 0 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | L. 3722 16 0 |

The number of sheep pastured in the parish is 7400 ; of cattle, 300 ; of horses, 72.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The inhabitants have access, by means of a good parish road, to the market-town of Peebles, which is not above a mile and a-half distant from the north-eastern extremity of Manner.

There are four stone bridges in the parish, the largest of which crosses the Manner water a few hundred yards above the spot where that stream falls into the Tweed.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated inconveniently for the population,—being not more than one mile from the lower extremity of the parish, while the other extremity is not less than eight miles distant from it. The time at which it was built cannot be ascertained. Though very old, it is in a tolerably good state of repair. It is capable of affording accommodation for 150 persons.

The principal part of the manse was built upwards of twenty years ago. The glebe is thirty acres in extent, and, under proper management, might be worth from L. 35 to L. 40. The stipend

amounts to L. 113, 3s. 1½d. of money ; 23 bolls, 2 firlots, 2 pecks, ½ lippie of barley, and the same quantity of meal.

The number of families attending the Established church is 30 ; of persons of all ages attending that church, 120 ; * of persons of all ages attending the chapels of Dissenters and Seceders, 38 ; of Episcopalians, 7 ; of Roman Catholics, 2.

Considering the very inconvenient situation of the Established church, Divine service there is very well attended.

The average number of communicants at the Established church is 65.

Education.—The parochial teacher has L. 30 of salary, and L. 14 arising from school fees, together with the legal accommodations.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 4 ; the average sum allotted to each per week, 3s. ; the annual amount of contributions for the relief of the poor, L. 15. Of this sum, about L. 8, 10s. are collected in the church ; L. 3 arise from occasional contributions, and the remainder is supplied by the interest of L. 184, which is the amount of our existing poors' fund.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There is not a single inn or alehouse in the parish.

Coal is the kind of fuel principally used in this parish. It is generally procured either from White-hill, in Mid-Lothian, or from Wilsonton, in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. When brought here it costs about 1s. per cwt.—two-thirds of the expense being occasioned by the carriage. Though there is abundance of peat, of good quality, in various parts of the parish, very little of it is used by the inhabitants for fuel.

* It deserves to be mentioned, that besides these there are some who frequently attend the Established church, but who communicate with the Dissenters or Seceders.

May 1834.

PARISH OF STOBO.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER KER, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE extent of the parish was increased after the parish of Dawick was suppressed in 1742, on which occasion a part of that parish was annexed to Stobo, and the other part of it to the parish of Drummelzier. The length is 7 miles, and the greatest breadth $5\frac{1}{4}$. It contains $17\frac{9}{10}$ square miles. It is bounded on the west and east by the waters Biggar and Lyne; on the north and south by the hills, or what is termed the waterfalls of the ranges of hills, which run parallel to the river Tweed. From the range of hills on the north of the bank, there are three lower ranges of hills which run to the south, forming valleys between, with streams of water flowing into the Tweed.

The hills forming these several ranges have separate names. The highest are the Pyked Stane, 1884 feet, Benvalla 1850, Binluga 1692, Flint hill 1621 above the level of the sea. They do not appear high, as they rise from a high level. The foot of Pyked Stane, where the Stobo burn has its course, is 700 feet above the level of the Tweed, where the burn joins it, so that the burn falls 700 feet in five miles.

Meteorology.—There is nothing particularly deserving of remark in the parish under this head. Among the prognostics of weather may be mentioned only one, which is common of course to other districts. Goats are said to have a peculiarly instinctive perception as to the change of weather. Though they delight to browse amongst rocks and high cliffs picking up herbs and eating shrubs, of which they have a peculiar relish, yet they are never caught in this exposed situation during a storm. If you wish to find them, search for a *bield* or sheltered corner, or recess in the neighbourhood, where they have taken up their quarters, and bid defiance to the blast.

Shepherds of observation, who attend to the manner in which their sheep conduct themselves previous to an approaching storm, remark that their old sheep or ewes (for the hogs are dull and stupid,) have a presentiment of change of weather.

Hydrography.—There are many perennial springs, some of which flow from the earth, and others from rocks. Their temperature is 46°; they are very clear, but not very large, and none of them so far impregnated with any mineral or chemical substances as that these become distinguishable by the taste or smell.

Tweed is the largest river in the parish. It has its source in the parish of Tweedsmuir, at a fountain called Tweedswell, about seventeen or eighteen miles above the uppermost part of the parish. It is upwards of twenty yards broad, and on an average about one foot and a-half deep at the fords. It enters the parish where Biggar water joins it, and at the junction is 615 feet above the level of the sea. It leaves the parish where the Lyne water joins it, and at the junction is 550 feet above the level of the sea. It runs either through or along the parish for seven miles. Its declivity is about twelve feet per mile.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There is a bed of clay-slate in the parish which has been worked for centuries. It is of excellent quality, and resembles much the slate from the quarries of Ballachulish in Argyleshire. Its direction is from west to east, and it dips to the south-east. All the other rocks are greywacke, more or less distinctly stratified.

The slate and greywacke rocks (whinstone) have been only worked where they crop out on the surface, and where there is little or no soil covering them.

Soil.—The soil is generally light and gravelly, abounding with numerous water-worn stones, especially in the valley of Tweed. In some parts the soil is clay, especially on the north parts of the hills, and in the best parts at the bottom of the hills. The alluvial soil in the haughs of Tweed is various, part being carse-land, part sandy or gravelly, evidently the deposit of the river, or what was at one time the bed of the river.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts, &c. of the Parish.—The only account of the parish, besides the former Statistical Account, is to be found in a publication entitled “A Companion to Armstrong’s Map of the County of Peebles,” published in 1775. Sir Alexander Murray, once a proprietor of Stobo estate, which comprehends now three-fourths of the parish, had a plan of it made and engraved about the year 1734, which is correct, and gives the heights of many of the hills.

Eminent Persons.—Sir Alexander Murray, Bart. who resided in the parish during part of the incumbency of my predecessor, was possessed of a most enterprising spirit, and carried on improvements

on his estate with an ardour and a taste scarcely equalled among his contemporaries. I must mention also the late Lord Chief Baron Montgomery, of his Majesty's Exchequer in Scotland, who was distinguished not only as an enterprising purchaser and improver, but for his great spirit in public undertakings, being always forward in encouraging every measure that could contribute to the advantage and improvement of the county of Tweeddale, over which he long presided in all matters of public concern. His remains are deposited in the family burying ground in the churchyard of Stobo.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners in the parish are Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart.; Sir John Nasmyth of Posso, Bart.; the Right Honourable the Earl of March and Wemyss; and William Gray, Esq. of Brown's Lands.

Parochial Registers.—The date of the earliest entry of the parochial register of births, marriages, and deaths is in the year 1653; since that period a register has been regularly kept, and the principal events in the parish briefly recorded.

Antiquities.—On Sheriffmuir there are two large stones three feet in height and six feet distant from each other, which are supposed to mark the grave of some chief who had there fallen in battle. There are also two cairns of stones on this muir, and single stones about a foot in height planted at regular distances, which some suppose to have been planted to perpetuate the memory of some person of distinction, while others regard them as relics of Druidical temples.

There is also to be seen in this muir a large round cavity in the form of a basin, called *Pinkie's Hole*. It is about ninety paces in circumference; and at the time when the former Statistical Account was written, it was at the centre between six and seven feet below the level of the adjacent plain; but the depth is now considerably less, from the decay of the luxuriant crops of grass in the inside,—the grass in the inside being far more luxuriant than on the rim of the cavity, probably from the soil being enriched by the decay of the bodies therein buried, of those who had fallen in battle.

This muir, being both central for the county and well adapted for mustering the Tweeddale militia whilst the unfortunate animosities subsisted between the sister kingdoms, was the place where the sheriff-depute was accustomed to summon them to appear before him on a certain day and at an appointed hour; hence it was called the Sheriff-muir, and still retains the name.

Modern Buildings.—Stobo Castle is the chief modern building in the parish. The materials generally used for building are whin-

stones for the body of the buildings, ornamented according to taste or fashion with freestone.

III.—POPULATION.

The state of the population previous to the year 1784 cannot be traced with any degree of certainty, but from various circumstances there is reason to believe the population is now partly diminished,—but from what causes it is not so easy to determine.

| | |
|---|-----|
| In 1811, the population was | 422 |
| 1821, - - - | 413 |
| 1831, - - - | 440 |
| The yearly average of births for the last 7 years, | 5 |
| of burials in the parish, | 4 |
| of marriages, | 3 |
| The average number of persons at present in the parish under 15 years of age, | 198 |
| upwards of 70, | 8 |
| Number of bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years of age, | 6 |
| of widows and unmarried women upwards of 45, | 4 |

The number of families in the parish is 85 ; whereof 41 are chiefly engaged in agriculture ; 8 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft ; and 36 not belonging to either of these classes.

The only individual of independent fortune resident in the parish is Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart. ; but there are four proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

Character of the People.—My residence amongst them has been for upwards of sixty years. I have known in the parish many respectable, benevolent, and kind-hearted parishioners. They are gone, and I have mourned their loss. Yet they have left behind them successors to whose integrity of life and manners I am happy to have the opportunity to bear testimony. There is, in one word, perhaps, no parish where the moral character and conduct of the people are in all respects more uniformly unexceptionable.

During the last three years there have been, however, two illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | |
|--|--------|
| The number of imperial acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is | 1255 |
| Capable of being cultivated with a profit, | 711 |
| In pasture, including hill ground, | 10,080 |
| In undivided common, | 0 |
| Under wood, planted, | 587 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land, per acre, in the parish is L. 1. The average rent of grazing, per ox or cow, for the year, L. 3, 10s. The average rent of ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured on the hills for one year, 5s. ; on the valleys or improved ground for one year, 10s.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of labour during the summer, per week,

for farm-labourers, or labourers at the high roads, is 10s.; and in the winter, per week, 9s., they finding their own victuals. Carpenters are paid at the rate of 1s. 6d. per day, summer and winter, with their victuals. Tailors are paid at the same rate. Masons are paid 2s. 6d. per day, but maintain themselves.

Husbandry.—All the farms in the parish are stocked with the Cheviot breed of sheep, except two, which are stocked with the black-faced. In some farms the breeds of cattle have been of late improved by crossing them with the Tees-Water and Ayrshire breeds. The state of farm-buildings in the parish is generally good: and the greater part of the arable ground, which is generally ploughed, is enclosed with stone dikes. The duration of leases is nineteen years.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|------------|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals, 3600 bolls. | | | |
| 37 acres potatoes, at L. 6 per acre. | - | - | L. 222 0 0 |
| 138 acres, turnips, at L. 3, 10s. per acre, | - | - | 483 0 0 |
| 5560 stones of hay, at 4d. per stone, | - | - | 93 3 4 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | L. 798 3 4 |

As to the produce of land in pasture, there are 1330 acres in that state. It may be rated at L. 2, 10s. per cow or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season; at 10s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured or that may be pastured for the year.

| | | | |
|--|----|---|---|
| Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, and copse, | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Quarries, | 60 | 0 | 0 |

The real rental of the parish is L. 2847.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—There is a communication between Peebles and Stobo weekly, by a carrier, who passes through the parish; and between Edinburgh and Stobo weekly by the same means. There is no post-office nearer than Peebles or Rachan Mill. There are two turnpike roads in the parish, one of which extends towards the west about four miles nearly along the side of the river Tweed; the other upwards of three miles, till it joins Kirkurd parish on the north-west, and Newlands on the north-east.

Over Lyne water there are three bridges at a short distance from each other; and on Biggar water, the boundary between Stobo and Broughton parishes, there is a bridge,—all of which are kept in good repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is a Gothic structure of great antiquity, and has been evidently erected in times of Popery. For a long time the building afforded insufficient and uncomfortable accommodation; but these defects have now been completely re-

medied. It affords accommodation to upwards of 200 sitters. There are no free sittings. The manse was built in the year 1791. The glebe is subdivided, and enclosed with stone dikes and hedges. It contains about twenty-one acres of arable land, each acre worth about L. 1, 10s. per annum. To make up the stipend to L. 150, exclusive of communion elements, it was necessary to apply to the Exchequer fund for L. 12, 13s. 1d. There are also ten bolls of oatmeal which the minister of Stobo draws from Sir John Nasmyth, as his half share of the glebe and grass of Dawick, and a servitude which he has on the Harrow and Stobo Hope of six days of a man's casting turfs.

The number of dissenters in the parish is about 34. The average number of communicants in the parish church is 154.

Education.—The parochial school is the only school in the parish. Besides the usual branches, Latin is sometimes taught there. The salary is L. 92. The school fees amount annually to about L. 11. As an encouragement to the people to attend, Sir James Montgomery pays the school fees of every boy or girl of a family when the numbers that attend the school out of each family exceed two. The school fees for teaching to read English, for one year, are 4s. 6d. ; for English and writing, 6s. ; for arithmetic, including English, 7s. 6d. ; for Latin, 12s. The schoolmaster's accommodations are good. There is no person in the parish upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot both read and write.

Poor.—There are at present nine or ten paupers receiving parochial aid, each receiving upon an average L. 3, 5s. per annum. Their relief arises from the collections in the church, averaging about L. 12 per annum, and from the sum of L. 545, which has been realized by savings from church collections.

As to the feelings of paupers in regard to their receiving aid from poors' funds, these of course are different in different individuals. I may state, as illustrative of the depraving effects of a dependence on this sort of charity, the case of one pauper, who at one time was so shocked at the debasing idea of being indebted for relief out of the poors' box, that she told me that she would rather work "till the blood came out at her finger points;" but now this woman is the most clamorous for relief of all that are on the poors' roll.

Fuel.—Coals are the chief staple article for fuel in the parish. They are brought either from the Lothians, Douglas coal-hill, or Wilsonton, in the west country.

May 1834.

PARISH OF KIRKURD.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. DAVID ANDERSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name—Boundaries.—ACCORDING to Chalmers in his Caledonia, the word Kirkurd was formed by prefixing the Scoto-saxon *Kirk* to *Urd*, the Celtic name of the place, signifying an eminence or height. This seems the most probable derivation of the name. The length of the parish from east to west is $5\frac{1}{2}$ English miles, and its breadth from north to south is from 3 to 4 miles. It is bounded by Broughton, Skirling, Dolphington, Linton, Newlands, and Stobo.

Topographical Appearances.—The highest hill in the parish is called Hell's Cleugh, which, according to Armstrong, is 2100 feet above the level of the sea. On the summit of this hill there is a small cairn called the *Pyked Stane*, the boundary of three parishes, Stobo, Broughton, and Kirkurd. This cairn commands a very extensive view. Towards the north-west, the view extends as far as Dumbartonshire, and towards the east as far as the Eildon hills, near Melrose, and the Cheviot hills in Northumberland.

Hydrography.—There is a copious sulphureous spring near Castlecraig. The late celebrated Dr Black, Professor of Chemistry, in the University of Edinburgh, from a chemical analysis, ascertained its water to be stronger than the sulphureous water at Moffat, but weaker than that at Harrowgate. It has been used with success in several diseases. The water Tarth flows along the north of the parish, and divides it from Linton and Newlands. This is the only stream in the parish.

The lands in this parish, though in general high, being betwixt 600 and 700 feet above the level of both the east and west sea, are notwithstanding healthful—the soil being for the most part gravelly. The soil appears to be well adapted for the growth of timber of various kinds, and a great deal of wood has been planted,

which tend much to beautify and improve the country. The prevailing winds are from the south-west, and the heavy rains are immediately absorbed. Rheumatism is the most prevalent distemper.

Geology.—The prevailing rocks in this parish appear to belong to the transition class.

Not long ago, in digging for marl in the Mount bog, several horns of the elk, in a high state of preservation, were found. It is conjectured that there must have been a lake at one time in that place, perhaps in a semifluid state, and that the deer running into it when pursued by the hunters had perished. In proof of there having been a lake, it may be mentioned, that, in boring for marl in another part of the bog, there were found several hazel-nuts by no means in a decayed state. The discovery of these horns affords one, among many other proofs, that this country must have abounded in former times very much in wood.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—James Geddes of Rachan, whose ancestors possessed the large estate of Kirkurd for a long course of years, was born in this parish in the year 1710. He was educated for, and practised several years at, the bar, and was to have been appointed to the Bench of Judges. He died of consumption before he arrived at the age of forty. He published an Essay on the Composition and Manner of Writing of the Ancients, and left behind him several other tracts.

It is recorded in history, that, at the close of the civil wars with the Douglasses in the reign of James II., Sir David Scott of *Kirkurd* and Buccleuch obtained great gifts of land for his clan's service and his own at the battle of Arkinholme, in the valley of Esk, where the brothers of Douglas and his followers received a severe defeat, and that the possession of this landed property was the commencement of that course of greatness which afterwards raised his family to the dukedom.

Land-owners.—There are four proprietors in this parish, the principal of whom are Sir Thomas G. Carmichael, Bart. of Skirling, and John Lawson, Esq. of Cairnmuir. The former gentleman is patron of Kirkurd, and possesses several valuable estates in other parishes. His estates formerly belonged to John Earl of Hyndford, his grand-uncle. They are entailed in the male line.

Parochial Registers.—With regard to these, it may be stated, that three books exist containing part of the records of the kirk-session. The first begins in September 23, 1705, and ends Fe-

bruary 23, 1707; the second begins November 10, 1717, and ends July 12, 1724; the third begins January 3, 1725, and ends July 30, 1738. The registers have been regularly kept from October 27, 1742, to the present time.

Antiquities.—Several stones of a circular form are standing in the neighbourhood of old Harestanes, supposed to have been erected by the Druids for religious purposes.

Near Castlecraig house are two mounts called the Castle and the Law, supposed to have been sepulchral barrows of ancient construction, though afterwards used as stations for the administration of justice to a rude people. To the east of these is a circular fortification, on an eminence near Ladyurd, called the Rings, and another to the west called the Chesters. They are supposed to have been military erections.

At Mount-hill, about the year 1754, a stone chest enclosing a large clay urn containing human bones was found. And more recently there was found at the bottom of the same hill a stone coffin $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, which contained human bones, among which were discovered three flint stones,—one resembling a halbert; another of a circular form; and the third of a cylindrical form, with a small ring, supposed to have been a Druidical amulet. In another part of the parish, there was also found a few years ago another stone coffin, formed of a great many stones rudely put together, and containing human bones.

Modern Buildings.—Castlecraig, the seat of Sir Thomas G. Carmichael, is an elegant and commodious mansion-house, erected by Sir John G. Carmichael, and enlarged and beautified by the present proprietor. The garden and pleasure grounds are very extensive, and tastefully laid out. The house at Cairnmuir, belonging to John Lawson, Esq. is also an excellent one, and well fitted for the accommodation of a large family.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|
| Population in 1801, | - | 327 |
| 1811, | - | 387 |
| 1821, | - | 352 |
| 1831, | - | 318 |

The population of 1831 is now considerably less than when the last census was taken, owing to the two principal proprietors not being resident in the parish.*

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----|
| 1. Number of families in the parish, | - | - | 57 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 46 |
| handicraft, | - | - | 7 |

* Since the above was written, the heritors have returned, and the population may be about 360.

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 2. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years, | - | 8 |
| of deaths, betwixt | - | 3 and 4 |
| of proclamations, betwixt | - | 6 and 7 |

Owing to the prodigious increase of machinery of late years, which greatly lessens the price of various articles, very little wool or lint is spun at home, and the general practice is to purchase every thing from the merchant. And, indeed, still fewer articles will hereafter be manufactured at home, because, in reality, no profit is derived from the system. The people in a reasonable degree may be said to enjoy the comforts and advantages of society; and, accordingly, it may be mentioned that no emigrants to foreign countries have gone from this parish.

During the last three years there have been four or five illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—By actual measurement the parish was found to contain 6620 English acres. It has been plausibly supposed that these may be divided into three nearly equal parts, 1st, land that is at present under cultivation; 2d, land that may be cultivated or improved: 3d, land that is solely adapted for sheep-pasture. Under the second of these divisions, however, are included nearly 600 acres which have been planted; and the remaining 1620 acres must merely be considered as what it is possible to make arable, not what may be advantageously cultivated. This last point cannot properly be determined; only we may safely assert, that the number of acres that might with profitable application of capital be added to the cultivated land is very small. In fact, in some instances too great a desire has been manifested to bring high ground into cultivation, and it may be questioned whether the farmer has received a proper indemnification for the expense incurred.

This parish has derived great benefit from the attention that has been paid to the growth of timber. The plantations belonging to Sir Thomas G. Carmichael and Mr Lawson are extensive, and are in a flourishing state. Sir Thomas, indeed, has done incalculable service to the parish by his numerous plantations. These have wonderfully improved the climate, and beautified the country. In this county much may yet be done in the way of planting trees; and proprietors would receive a proper remuneration, for it cannot be disputed that the plantations on the hills tend to improve the lower grounds.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of men-servants for the year are

betwixt L. 11 and L. 13; and of women-servants betwixt L. 5 and L. 6 for the same period. The wages of women-servants are much higher in summer than in winter, owing, no doubt, to the greater amount of labour to which they are subjected in the one season than in the other.

Husbandry.—All kinds of grain excepting wheat and beans are raised, and it is found that the more early kinds suit better than the later. Wheat, indeed, has been attempted, but this so partially, as scarcely to merit notice.* The green crop cultivation is much attended to, and potatoes and turnips are generally of excellent quality. The dairy system is carried on here to a considerable extent, and it has been said that the farmers are nearly enabled to pay their rents from the produce of their cows.

The plan of irrigating meadow ground has been adopted in some places in the parish very successfully.—It has been ascertained that some water meadows have produced on an average about 400 stones of hay per acre, reckoning 22 lbs. to the stone.

As to the duration of leases, it may be stated, that all farms, with a few exceptions, are let for nineteen years, and if they are let on an average at 20s. per acre, both landlord and tenant are considered as equally benefited.

Very little can be said in praise of the farm-buildings in the parish. These are commonly taken by estimate, and the lowest is generally preferred. Hence the farm-houses are rather superficially built. It has now, however, become customary for the tenants themselves to drive materials for the buildings, and this no doubt tends, with as little cost as formerly to the proprietor, to secure a more substantial and comfortable erection.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---------|----|---|
| Oats, 2392 bolls at 15s. per boll, | L. 1794 | 0 | 0 |
| Barley, 258 bolls at 22s. per boll, | 288 | 16 | 0 |
| Pease, 50 bolls at 16s. per boll, | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips, 113 acres at L. 4, 10s. per acre, | 508 | 10 | 0 |
| Potatoes, 33 acres, 40 bolls per acre, at 8s. per boll, | 528 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, cultivated, 12,000 at 6d. per stone, | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, meadow, 11,000 at 3d. per stone, | 137 | 10 | 0 |
| Sheep, 2000 at 6s. each, | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Black cattle, Ayrshire breed,—240 at L. 3 each, | 720 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood disposed of, | 215 | 0 | 0 |
| | L. 5126 | 16 | 0 |

The above may be considered a pretty accurate account of the

* It was found not to succeed, owing, probably, to the high situation, &c.

annual produce, and in connection with this, we now state that the real rental of the parish may be about L. 1900 yearly. The land, upon the whole, is well cultivated. The improved system of husbandry has been adopted, and good crops in general are produced.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, and Means of Communication.—There is no village in the parish, and the nearest-market towns are Biggar and Peebles, the one seven and the other ten miles distant from the church. The parish enjoys abundant means of communication, the great public road betwixt Edinburgh and Dumfries, &c. passing through it, and also the road betwixt Glasgow and Peebles, &c. The length of the turnpike roads are betwixt seven and eight miles, and they are kept in excellent repair. There are three principal bridges, all of which are in pretty good condition.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the church is convenient for the bulk of the population, the distance from one extremity being two and a-half miles, and from the other about three. It was built in 1766, and is fitted for accommodating about 300 people. The interior is upon the whole pretty comfortable. The sittings are all free, every farmer in the parish being entitled to a seat in the church for himself and family.

We understand that in 1116 there belonged to the Bishoprick of Glasgow in Kercayrd one carucate of land and a church. This church was confirmed to the bishops of Glasgow by the bulls of Pope Alexander in 1170 and 1178, and by the bulls of Lucian and Urban in 1181 and 1186. The church of Ord was afterwards given to the hospital of Sottra *in proprios usus*, and continued with it till 1462, when Mary of Gueldres transferred it to the Trinity church of Edinburgh, upon condition that the sacrist of the collegiate church of the Trinity should keep in repair the church of Kirkurd. It is a curious fact, that in 1384 Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith founded near his castle a chapel, which he endowed with the lands of Lochard, and 40s. out of the lands of Kirkurd in Peebles-shire.

It would appear that the church of Kirkurd must have been a vicarage in Roman Catholic times, for we are told that in 1477 William Chamber, the vicar of Kirkurd, granted some lands in the manor of Corstorphine and various annual rents for supporting a chaplain to officiate at St Ninian's altar in Corstorphine church; and that this endowment was confirmed in 1477 by James III.

It may be proper to mention, that during the prevalence of the

keen discussions regarding church government, the minister of Kirkurd, Mr John Bennet, was sent as one of the commissioners from the Presbytery of Peebles to the famous assembly that convened at Glasgow in 1638, where Henderson was moderator, and where Episcopacy was abolished.

There is only one place of worship in the parish, and those who dissent from the Established church generally attend a Relief chapel in the parish of Newlands.

The average number of communicants for many years past may be about 160. The sacrament is dispensed annually, and the people are very regular in attending upon it.

The manse was built in 1788, and has once or twice undergone some trifling repairs. It is too small, and inferior to the generality of manses. The extent of the glebe is about nineteen acres, nearly all arable. When the present incumbent was settled in 1797, a new glebe was given, and as part of the land was very indifferent, this accounts for the glebe being larger than usual. It has been much improved by manuring, draining, and by its being enclosed. The present minister was once in the habit of letting it, and one year received a rent of L. 30, with a cow's grass.

The parish was valued at an early period, and was found to be no more than L. 1108, 15s. 4d. Scotch money. The stipend from the heritors is about L. 70, and as the teinds are exhausted, more than double is received from the Exchequer to make it amount to L. 150.

Education.—There is one public school in the parish, attended on an average by about forty scholars, but often by more, from its vicinity to other parishes. Occasionally there are a few scholars instructed in Latin and Greek, and practical mathematics. The teacher has the maximum salary. The school-fees fixed by the heritors and minister are 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. per quarter. These may amount annually to L. 12. The dwelling-house for the school-master is very small, there being only a kitchen and one small room. There is scarcely an individual upwards of twelve years of age in the parish who cannot both read and write, and the people are alive to the benefits of education.

Library.—A parish library was instituted in 1810, and is upon the whole in a flourishing state. A school library was likewise founded in 1828.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The weekly collections in the church are found more than sufficient to supply the ordinary poor

in a purely agricultural parish, where there is no village and no manufactories. These collections vary considerably at different times. When the heritors' families are resident, they are sometimes 9s. or 10s., and 2s. 6d. may be considered as the average at other times. Occasionally, collections are made for religious and charitable purposes, and the people in general contribute liberally enough. It may be right to mention, that there was at one time a capital of about L. 400, which by extraordinary expenditure, as in the payment of a schoolmaster's salary for several years, the building of a house for the church-officer, the maintaining of a widow with a large family, and by purchasing mort-safes, enclosing the schoolmaster's garden, erecting an iron gate to the churchyard, and occasionally repairing the church, painting the same, &c. is now reduced to less than L. 200. At an average for several years past the disbursements for the poor have been about L. 40 annually; and the number of persons receiving aid yearly has been six. It may be safely stated, that there is little danger of any assessment ever becoming necessary in this parish. To the credit of the people it may be mentioned, that a highly laudable and independent spirit exists among them, and that they will not have recourse to parochial assistance except from absolute necessity. They very generally avail themselves of the advantages arising from Savings Banks, established in different parts of the county.

Inns.—There is one inn in the parish, chiefly for the accommodation of travellers.

Fuel.—Coals are generally used. The nearest are six miles distant, and can be procured, including carriage, &c. for nearly 10s. per common cart, containing about 12 cwt. The people in general, however, prefer getting their coals from Douglas, and the neighbourhood of Carnwath, because, though at a great distance, they are reckoned excellent in quality.

Friendly Society.—A Friendly Society was many years ago established in the parish; but, owing to its not being founded on proper principles, and to the want of efficient management, it has become extinct.

May 1834.

PARISH OF NEWLANDS.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. CHARLES FINDLATER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THE parish may be considered as about 11 miles in length, and about 2 miles in the average breadth, in whole, probably, 11000 or 12000 acres.

A chief part of the low land lies in a vale, which is bounded towards the south-east by a range of hills, called *Kellyheads*, running parallel to the range of the Pentland hills. This vale is bounded on the opposite side by a low hilly ridge, passing under different names, such as *Dodhead* and *Broomyleas*. In the bottom of this vale there is a moss, called Hallmyre bog, of about 60 acres, along the middle of which a very deep and wide ditch was cut down to a gravelly bottom, full of springs, by the late William Gordon, Esq. of Hallmyre, into which the bog has been drained by cross-drains, and is now all good arable land. With the interruption of Lyne water, which cuts it nearly at right angles, this vale continues, bounded by lesser hills, or rather a swelling ridge, along the public road till you arrive at the bridge over the Terth, which water forms the boundary of the parish with that of Kirkurd and of Stobo.

The vale of the Lyne is bounded on the one side by the Kellyheads range above-mentioned, taking various names, and interrupted only by the small burn, called *Flemington-mill burn*, and the still smaller ones of *Stevenson burn*, and *Hagen-hope burn*, all falling from the east into Lyne vale, which last forms the boundary with the parish of Lyne. This vale is bounded on the other side of the Lyne water by gently rising acclivities, which on their opposite side descend to the water of Terth before-mentioned, as the boundary with the parishes of Kirkurd and Stobo.

Besides these vales, the parish extends over the tops of the range of the Kellyheads, and down their opposite sides to Fle-

mington-mill burn and its tributaries, where the parish is bounded by that of Eddlestone.

Hydrography.—The only waters of any importance in the parish are the Lyne and the Terth, and next to them Flemington-mill burn. These are frequented only for trout fishing. There is an artificial pond of about fourteen acres at Whim, and another perhaps about half as large at Magbiehill; they contain trout, eels, and perch. The new proprietor of Lamancha is also forming some fish-ponds.

Mineralogy.—The rock in the range of the Kellyheads is whin, which is rarely to be found in solid beds, but is divided by fissures in all directions. It contains veins of pretty rich ironstone; and there are many chalybeate springs. In the east end of the parish, on the estates of Whim and Lamancha, the coal formation occurs, composed of limestone, slate, white sandstone, and common black bituminous coal. None of these are now wrought for sale. On the adjoining estate of Magbiehill there is lime for sale; but the coal for burning it is brought from the neighbouring parish of Linton. Farther down in the vale, in the hill of Broomyleas, there is a quarry of excellent durable red sandstone or freestone, which supplies all the county.

Zoology.—Under this head may be noticed the brown, or Russian, or Norwegian rat, which a good many years ago invaded Tweeddale, to the total extermination of the former black rat inhabitants. Their first appearance was in the minister's glebe at Selkirk, about the year 1776 or 1777, where they were found burrowing in the earth, a propensity which occasioned considerable alarm, lest they should undermine houses. They seemed to follow the courses of waters and rivulets, and, passing from Selkirk, they were next heard of in the mill of Traquair; from thence following up the Tweed, they appeared in the mills of Peebles; then entering by Lyne water, they arrived at Flemington-mill, in this parish; and coming up the Lyne they reached this neighbourhood about the year 1791 or 1792.

Within thirty or forty years the brown squirrel has found its way hither from Dalkeith.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Persons.—Of remarkable persons born in the parish, I can only state Sir Robert Murray Keith of Hallmyre, who was ambassador at Copenhagen, and saved the life of the queen in the affair of Count Struensee; and Sir Basil, his brother, who died in

Jamaica, governor of that island; to whom may be added the late Lord Chief Baron Montgomery, who was one of the first sheriffs of royal nomination, after the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions, and the first Scotchman who attained to the dignity of Lord Chief Baron.*

Land-owners.—The proprietors, reckoning from the easter end of the parish, are Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, proprietor of Whim, non-resident, but whose house, with some parks, is occupied by his brother Archibald Montgomery, Esq.; William F. Mackenzie, Esq. of Portmore, proprietor of Easter and Wester Deans-houses, non-resident; James M'Intosh, Esq. proprietor of Lamanacha, resident; the Rev. Mr Berrisford of Magbiehill, occasionally resident; Henry Veitch, Esq. of Ellicock, proprietor of Bogend, non-resident; the family of the late William Gordon, Esq. of Hallmyre, non-resident; Adam Kennedy, Esq. of Romanno, resident; the Earl of Wemyss, proprietor of Whiteside, Fingland, Fleming-ton-mill, and Drochil, non-resident; Sir John Hay of Hayston, proprietor of Stevenson, non-resident; William Aitchison, Esq. of Drummore, proprietor of Boreland, non-resident, but occasionally visiting his farm; Sir Thomas Carmichael of Skirling, proprietor of Scotston, non-resident; James Aitken, Esq. of Callends, resident. There is none of these proprietors whose rental is not more than L. 100 a-year.

Antiquities.—As to the vestiges of antiquity remaining in the parish, there are circular circumvallations called rings on the tops of several hills, as on Callends hill, Whiteside hill, Boreland hill, and Penria hill.

Drochil Castle, situated in a commanding situation, in the angle made by the junction of Terth with Lyne water, is not very much dilapidated. Tradition ascribes the building to Regent Morton: The lintel of one window to the west has the Douglas arms upon it in relief.

Parochial Registers.—The old session record, beginning with a mutilated leaf of a minute in 1650, might probably be ranked among the antiquities of the parish. From that record it appears that an yearly sum was paid by the adjoining parishes to the Peebles magistrates for watching witches in Peebles prison,—to enforce confession, probably by the torture of preventing them from sleeping. From that record great alarm seems to have prevailed at the approach of Cromwell's army, (designed the *Sectarian Army*.) fast-

* Vide Account of Stobo.

days being frequently appointed to avert the impending calamity; and the Sabbath day itself was often set apart for that purpose. Intimations are given from the pulpit to the militia to meet at certain places of rendezvous, and thence to proceed to the Scotch army, wherever it may be at the time. After the defeat of the engagers under the Duke of Hamilton, I find that Sir Michael Na-smith in Drochil appeared before the kirk-session, and upon his knees confessed his conviction of the sinfulness and unlawfulness of the late engagement, whereupon he was again received into the So-lemn League and Covenant. During Cromwell's administration, the session seems to have kept remarkably quiet. After the Resto-ration, and during the persecution of the Covenanters, great anxiety seems manifested against any persons being received into the parish without sufficient testimonials, attesting, it may be presumed, that they did not attend conventicles: And great alarm is also expres-sed when a placard was found affixed to the church threatening re-taliation on the part of the persecuted. The session seems to have assumed great censorial powers, and informations were listened to and sought after in regard to the slightest irregularities, which were made matter of impeachment and judicial trial, with citation and examination of witnesses, so that discipline seems to have been strict in the parish. The session record is not now so voluminous; no record is kept of scandals, nor of marriages, nor deaths; and even that of births is not completely regular, there being no suffi-cient compulsitor to enforce registration.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|--|------|
| In 1801, the population was | 950 |
| 1811, - - - | 1168 |
| 1821, - - - | 1041 |
| 1831, - - - | 1078 |
| Number of families in the parish, - - - - - | 205 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - - - | 109 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, - - - - - | 38 |
| of other families, - - - - - | 58 |

There are 2 fatuous persons, and 1 deaf and dumb in the pa-rish.

During the last three years there have been six illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Land now or occasionally in tillage, - | 3341 acres. |
| Never cultivated, - - - | 7659 |
| In undivided common, - - - | 0 |
| Under wood, - - - | 387 |

With the aid of bone and oil-cake manure, none of the land need lie unimproved, excepting probably 500 acres of the apex of hills, inaccessible to the plough. But a great part of this is occasionally ploughed, cropt with oats, and then resigned for years to pasture.

I would observe in general, that, from the vicinity of the parish to Edinburgh, dairy farming is much in practice. The most productive mode of dairy farming here is to churn the whole milk, and to send both butter and butter-milk daily, or twice or thrice a-week to the capital. The next mode in point of profit which our farmers adopt is to churn only the cream, and convert the skimmed milk into cheese; sending the butter by weekly carriers to Edinburgh, and selling the cheese at the end of the season. At a greater distance, it is expedient to convert the whole of the milk into cheese.

Sown Grasses.—Fallow land, when sown out for hay, is sown with grass seeds at the rate of 8 lb. red clover, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of annual rye-grass per imperial acre. If intended for pasture, at the rate of 4 lb. red, and 5 lb. of white clover, and the same quantity, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, of perennial rye-grass. Where the soil is mossy, Timothy and rib-grasses are mixed with the clovers; in some few instances double the clover, with only two-thirds of the rye-grass above specified, are sown.

Live-Stock.—The stocking of a sheep-farm is the number of sheep that are smeared and kept through winter; whether lambs bought in the end of June or beginning of July, kept over winter and sold as hogs next June or July, or ewes, as a breeding-stock, whose lambs, excepting those retained to keep up the stock, together with the old discarded ewes are sold to the butcher, or the lambs sold to farms of the first description, part being kept to replace the breeders discarded, or part may be even retained upon the farm to be sold as hogs.

In this parish both old sheep and lambs are sold to the butcher, excepting the lambs retained to keep up the breeding-stock.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:

| | Imperial acres. | Return per acre. | Total. | |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------|-------------|
| Sown grass hay, | 367, | 125 stones, | 45815 stones. | L. 1145 0 0 |
| Watered meadow, | 60, | 200 do. | 12000 do. | 250 0 0 |
| In fallow, generally with turnip } and potatoes, } | 509, | probably one-tenth may be deducted for bare fallow previous to wheat. | | |

| | Imperial acres. | Return per acre. | Total. | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|---|---|
| In barley, | - 183, | 6½ bolls, | 1189 bolls. | L. 1070 | 0 | 0 |
| In pease, | - 60, | 5 do. | 300 do. | 195 | 0 | 0 |
| In oats, | - 1045, | 5 do. | 5225 do. | 3135 | 0 | 0 |
| In wheat, | - 36, | 8 do. | 288 do. | 403 | 0 | 0 |
| In potatoes and turnips | 450 acres, say at L. 5 per acre, | - | - | 2250 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | L. 8448 | 0 | 0 |

Whilst a considerable quantity of sown grass hay is sold on account of vicinity to Edinburgh, it is replaced by nearly an equal quantity bought in from the west country.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------|----------|------|
| There may be of barley sold, | 800 bolls, | retained for seed, | 140, | consumed | 260 |
| of pease, | | | 60, | do. | 240 |
| of oats, | 2260 do. | do. | 963, | do. | 2000 |
| of wheat, | - | - | - | - | 288 |

The wheat raised is all consumed; the seed bought in, as also flour occasionally. In general all grains for seed are brought from other parts of the country.

The stock kept in the parish, with the rent it is supposed capable to pay per head, is as under:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|----------------|--------|---|---|
| Black-faced breed, | 1100 | 7 shillings per head. | Rent from them | L. 365 | 5 | 0 |
| Cross of these with Cheviot | 900 | 8 do. | do. | 365 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheviot, | 1600 | 8 do. | do. | 640 | 0 | 0 |
| Leicester | 400 | 16 do. | do. | 320 | 0 | 0 |

Total, 4000 L. 1710 5 0

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| Of the Cheviot breed, 400 of the above, consisting of the old ewes and rams, may be kept on through winter and sold in spring, and these can only be estimated at 4s., hence deduct | - | - | 80 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|

Remains L. 1630 5 0

The gross produce of the sheep pasture may be stated at L. 2110 0 0

The sheep-pastures being fine, and enabling all to be sold fat to the butcher, the value of the sheep per head is above the average of the county.

Black-Cattle.—Yearly gross produce of cows.

| | | | | | |
|--|------|---|--------|---|---|
| The number of milk cows kept may be 340—the calves kept yearly 160, which at three months old may be valued at L. 2, | - | - | L. 640 | 0 | 0 |
| And there may be afterwards made of the cow in cheese and butter, L. 3, 10s. | 1190 | 0 | 0 | | |

L. 1830 0 0

In some few instances where no calves are reared, there has been obtained from a cow to the value of L. 10. But upon an average L. 5, 10s. may be considered as the full value of the yearly produce of a cow, in calves, butter, and cheese. About 160 full aged black-cattle may be annually sold from the parish; part of them sold for the dairy in spring, and part fed off with turnip in autumn and winter, and sold to the butcher. The average value of these may be L. 9, 9s. a-head,

1502 0 0

The total gross produce from cows L. 3332 0 0

Horses.—The total number of these may be 192; of this number 35 may be kept for the road or field. The number bred yearly may amount to 35, to supply those worn out.

Rate of Wages.—The number of ploughmen may be 51, with victuals in the house, or livery-meal and kitchen money yearly as wages L. 11, 11s. each; women-servants all victualled in the house, in summer, 91, L. 3, 15s. each; do. in winter, 68, L. 2; day-labourers at 1s. 6d. per day, 35; boys, 50, L. 3 each yearly.

Rent.—The whole rent of the parish, valuing what is farmed by proprietors, is L. 6300. The valued rent, Scots money, L. 4020, 10s. 1d.

Farm of Boreland.—As the improvements upon the farm of Boreland, the property of William Aitchison, Esq. of Drummore, in the vicinity of my manse, have, in various respects, given a stimulus to improvement in this quarter, I judge it proper to give a general account of them.

The farm contains 372 acres, 30 acres of which Mr Aitchison, who purchased it in 1806, devoted to stripes and clumps of planting for shelter, and which is all in thriving condition. The surface on the north rises gradually from Longstruther burn into a long ridge of no great elevation, the soil of which is in general a black moorish soil, so light as to blow with the wind when pulverized into a tilth for turnip. This ridge declines into a plain, and then rises into a similar ridge, but of greater acclivity, which gathers in its middle to an eminence, crowned on its top with a small circular circumvallation, called Boreland Rings. This ridge descends rather more precipitously into the narrow glen of Callends burn. The soil of this plain ridge is a gravelly loam upon an open bottom. The whole is easily accessible to the plough, and has been all under plough culture, excepting some few spots converted into water meadow.

When purchased by Mr Aitchison it was in the possession of a back-going tenant, the remainder of whose lease he bought up, —the whole in the worst possible order.

The first surface improvement it underwent was liming the whole at the rate of 45 bolls of shells (or 18 one-horse cartfuls) per acre, so soon as it could be overtaken by fallowing. This liming seemed to have but little effect on the light soil of the northern ridge.

Much draining was required; and the first operation of this kind was performed upon a narrow stripe of land, consisting of 61 acres, lying along the end of the second mentioned ridge, from a little above the bridge over Lyne at the manse, to Callends burn, and bounded betwixt Lyne water and the road to Peebles. It was a moss soil at the outburst of the springs from the ridge, in which

the cattle of the former tenant used often to be bogged in searching for the early grass from the springs. Lying upon a bottom of *chattery* rock, no ditch could confine the water, and of course was not attempted. It was merely surface-drained by shaping it into high-crowned ridges by the spade; it was then limed from baskets carried by women, and sown out with grass-seeds, and has remained in grass ever since; a part of it being subsequently watered, though scantily, from Callends burn, hay is yearly cut from it at nearly 200 stones per acre. Three small springs have had two small portions assigned to them for watering,—the water of one of them being carried a part of the way to its destination in a timber conduit, supported upon tresses. But the most remarkable effect produced by irrigation was upon a field of a semifluid moss of five acres along Longstruther burn, over which sheep could not travel in the driest weather without risk of drowning. It was so deep that it would have required a ditch of great depth, and carried to great length, before reaching the level of its bottom. It was, therefore, surface-shaped for watered meadow, and the Longstruther burn turned over it; and, from being worth next to nothing, yields 200 stones of hay per acre, and can carry carts.

And here it may not be improper to state an experiment tried last year upon a small scale, and with such apparent success as has encouraged the repetition of it this season upon a larger. It is to raise turnips by grass fresh cut from the watered meadow, and deposited in the drills in the same way as dung. The grass in this year's experiment underwent no other process than merely being turned into the horse pond to get wetted that it might lie the more closely in the drill, to be the more easily covered by the plough. I inspected the field on the 4th September 1833, when the turnip from the grass and that from rape dust appeared equally vigorous in the shaw. Those on the same field from dung were rather fading in the shaw, but farther advanced in the bulb, owing, as I was told, from the earlier springing of the turnip from the dung. It might seemingly be of advantage to wet the grass, or, indeed, any kind of green stuff afforded by the farm, and to let it lie in heap for a few days till it gets heated, when turnip might spring from it as early as from dung. From the success of this experiment it would appear that manure might thus be obtained in every farm from any green stuff it produces. I inspected the same day the meadow whence the grass had been taken for manure. It was cutting green for house-feeding, and was pro-

bably as weighty as what had been cut for hay ten days or a fortnight before. Might not that which was stunted in growth in the cold months of spring shoot out more vigorously in being cut over so early?

But to return to the rest of the management. Mr Aitchison enlarged his tilth, and, by consequence, augmented his crop, and made a still farther enlargement of tilth by the conversion of its straw into manure,—in one instance by purchasing Edinburgh street dung, when it lay as a drug upon the hands of the magistrates, and subsequently by the foreign manures of rape and bone dust. And here it may be observed, that these two last-mentioned manures afford a prospect of improving our pastures on hills where merely the plough can operate; for as a ton weight per acre suffices to raise turnip, and as this could easily be carried on horses' backs, if sheep were flaked upon the turnip, the land would come to be in best order to be sown off with grasses, even where the expense of lime in addition might be inexpedient, although certainly to be desired.

To procure sufficiency of manure, is the great foundation of profitable farming. In the neighbourhood of great towns, it is advantageous to exchange the straw of the farm for the dung and fulzie of the town; but at a distance, excepting the easily transportable manures of bone or rape dust, the great dependence must be on the dung of the cattle and their litter. Mr Aitchison's plan is to consume his whole straw in litter, carrying off the litter and renewing it, so soon as it is merely so fouled by the dung as to make it ferment: to consume as much of the fodder in rearing young cattle, and to use the least possible for litter, which immediate profit suggests, he considers as almost equivalent to burning the straw to obtain the ashes for dung.

His dung manufacturers are, *first*, from twenty to thirty black cattle, bought in at Hallow-fair, which are kept through winter in a well-littered court, having open shades, and into which water is introduced, to which they have access *ad libitum*, upon turnip and meadow hay, and through the ensuing summer with cut grass from the water meadows or sown fields, and upon tares; when they are sold to the butcher in the end of autumn. Perhaps a dozen of swine are also fed in the cattle court.

The *next* engine for creating dung is a standing stock of breeding ewes, in number 105, of the new Leicester breed, remarkable for smallness of bone, weight of carcase, and heaviness of fleece. These are pastured in summer upon the parks on the ridge rising

from Longstruther burn, and lying from that burn to Noblehouse road, which have been resigned to pasture for several years; one of these parks in particular, formerly mostly covered with heath, was sown off for pasture, after having been for two successive seasons fallow green crops with dung, and the last turnip crop eaten on the field by the sheep; and when I inspected it on the 4th September 1833, it appeared equal to any Lothian park in closeness and fineness of sward. These ewes are fed through winter with turnip and hay, administered to them in open shades, with which every park is provided; a small quantity of green watered meadow grass being also allowed in spring, when the turnip are getting dry, to make the ewes more abundant in milk. The sheds are always kept plentifully littered. The proportion of lambs from the ewes, upon an average of years, is 141 from the 100. None are sold as lambs, but kept on through winter and the following summer, and, excepting what are retained to replace the discarded of the breeding stock, are sold, at from eighteen to twenty months old, to the butchers, who have uniformly declared that they have found no twenty month old sheep, even from the best parts of the country, equal to those from Boreland in fat and tallow. This may be accounted for from the uniform full feeding,—the abundance of shelter from planting and sheds,—and the waving nature of the surface, admitting free circulation of air, and preventing the molestation of flies, and thus may be overbalanced the disadvantages of an elevated situation and cold climate, which probably render vegetables less nutritious.

From his great command of manure, bred at home and abroad, Mr Aitchison can keep about 150 acres in constant tillage, in crops pretty much in the following assortment: From 12 to 20 acres in wheat; from 30 to 35 acres in barley; from 30 to 35 do. in oats; 30 to 35 do. grass sown with the preceding crop; 30 acres in turnips regularly; and the rest (including 30 acres under wood) in pasture. In the best seasons, a return has been known, per acre, of 14 bolls of wheat, 10 do. of oats, 8 of barley, old measure. Bare fallow is generally the preparation for wheat, but this season, (the tillage land being perfectly clean,) he intends sowing 21 acres after peas and tares; the tares, of about 8 acres, will be all cut and consumed in the court-yard, and dunged and sown with wheat this first week of September. The pease are being shorn just now, and the land will probably be dunged and sown the second week.

The average weight and price of his sheep, all sold by January 1833, is as under:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Ewes, average weight 131 lb., | - | - | L. 1 15 0 |
| Ewe hogs sold at eighteen months, 119 lb., | - | - | 1 13 0 |
| Wether hogs, 135 lb., | - | - | 1 19 0 |
| The average of wool, its price variable, say 2s. 3d, | | | |
| Average of ewes' fleece, | - | - | 4½ lb. |
| Do. of hogs' do, | - | - | 5½ do. |
| 1 large tup gave | - | - | 7½ do. which at 2s. 3d. |
| per lb. was worth 16s. for his wool. | | | |

He estimates the average returns of his pasture at L. 1, 5s. per acre, his turnip at L. 6 per acre. From an accurate account of his liming, at first upon the fallow, and subsequently in top-dressing pastures with a compound of moss and lime, he has expended above 400 bolls of shells.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The stipend consists partly of valued teind in money, and partly of meal and barley, averaging in whole about L. 250 a-year. The glebe is fourteen acres in extent.

The number of families attending the Established church is 42; families belonging to the dissenters, 20.

There is no record of the age of the church. The door-way at the west end in the front is arched semicircularly; the two windows and door in front at the west end are square and lintelled, and seem modern,—these two doors and windows are in the front,—and there was a large Gothic window in the east end, which has now been converted into a door to a gallery.

The present manse was built in 1740, and is still seemingly in good repair.

Education.—There is one parochial school; its situation not central. The teacher has the maximum salary, with L. 7, 7s. as heritors' and session-clerk. His fees may amount to about L. 13 a-year. There is another school at the eastern extremity of the parish, the teacher of which has a salary from the heritors of L. 8. There are no persons in the parish upwards of eight years of age unable to read.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—About 32 persons, regularly and occasionally, receive aid from these funds. The average annual amount of contributions for their relief is L. 110; of which L. 90 may be raised by assessment, and the rest from church collections.

Savings Banks.—There is one of these banks in this parish, in which the amount of deposits has hitherto varied from L. 800 to L. 1100.

April 1834.

PARISH OF EDDLESTONE.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. PATRICK ROBERTSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE parish of Eddlestone is 10 miles in length from north to south, and 7 from east to west. Its greatest breadth is at the southern extremity, and it gradually contracts as it approaches the north, where its breadth does not exceed two miles. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the parishes of Pennycuik and Temple, on the south-east by the parish of Innerleithen, on the south and south-west by the parishes of Peebles and Lyne, and on the west by Newlands.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The hills in general are of a very tame description, being smooth, and for the most part green to their summits. The highest is Dundroich, or the Druid's hill, which is 2100 feet above the level of the sea, and from which in a clear day can be seen the Cheviot hills, with part of Teviotdale, Annandale, Clydesdale, Perthshire, Fifeshire; the Firth of Forth, the city of Edinburgh, and the counties of East, West, and Mid-Lothian.

At the base of this hill, there is a lake two miles in circumference, abounding with pike, eels, and perch. This lake gives rise to the water of South Esk, which empties itself into the sea at Musselburgh.

The climate is dry and bracing,—the easterly fogs seldom reach the southern extremity of the parish, and there are no distempers peculiar to the district.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—Mr Mackenzie of Portmore is the principal land-owner, being proprietor of more than half the parish. Lord Eli-bank is patron, and second heritor; Lord Cringletie is third.

Parochial Registers.—A parochial register of births and baptisms, marriages and deaths, has been regularly kept since 26th December 1725. It is worthy of remark, that this register at first seems to have been kept solely for ecclesiastical purposes, the baptisms only being recorded, and not the births, from the year 1725 till

1780. Since that time, both the births and baptisms have been regularly recorded, in so far as this was practicable. But there is reason to fear that several have been deterred from entering their children's names in the record, by the small registration fee of 6d. to the clerk. This fee has lately been abolished, and the good effects of it are already beginning to appear; in one instance a whole family having been registered at the same time, who, but for this trifling circumstance, in all probability, would never have been recorded.

Antiquities.—There are no remains of antiquity in the parish except the ruins of three ancient camps. From their circular form it is probable they are Danish. One of them is still very entire upon the farm of Norshield; the late Colin Mackenzie, Esq. of Portmore, with that good taste for which he was distinguished, having preserved it with great care in the centre of his plantations. The other two, upon the farms of Milkiestone and Wormiston, have of late years been much defaced, in consequence of the stones having been applied to the purpose of building march dikes.

In the year 1794, a pot containing a great quantity of gold and silver coins was dug up in the court-yard of the farm of Kingside. The silver was in a state of great decay, and crumbled into powder on being removed. The gold was more entire. The exact quantity found could never be correctly ascertained, as various fingers had been in the pot before it was delivered over to the Lord Chief Baron, the late Sir James Montgomery. After retaining possession of it for a considerable time, and probably not thinking it worth while to report it to the Exchequer, he gave part of it to the finder and to the poor of the parish, and distributed a few pieces as curiosities among his friends. Several of these coins, it is believed, are now in the possession of Sir James Montgomery, and Mr Mackenzie, the proprietor. The tenant of Kingside has two of them, one bearing the inscription *Jacobus S. Scotorum Rex*, but the date is effaced; the other is apparently a foreign coin, but the inscription is altogether illegible.

Towards the northern extremity of this farm, a barrow or tumulus, inclosed by three circular walls, was opened in the year 1828 by the farmer for the sake of the stones; and in the centre of the inner circle was discovered a rude stone coffin, containing the ashes of human bones that had obviously been subjected to the action of fire. Combustion had not been so complete but that several of the processes remained entire; in particular those of the temporal bone. Beside the coffin were found a variety of brazen weapons, somewhat resembling hatchets. An account of this discovery, with a drawing

of the ground, and two of the weapons, was sent at the time by Mr Mackenzie to the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh. He retained two of the weapons, and gave the remainder to the tenant who made the discovery. Whether these weapons were used in war or in the chase is for the antiquary to determine.

It is worthy of remark, that the farm of Kingside, or more properly the King's Seat, where these remains were found, was a hunting station of King James the Sixth.

III.—POPULATION.

The ancient state of the population was very similar to what it is at present, viz. purely agricultural and pastoral. The manners no doubt were more simple and primitive. Most of the farms were occupied by two tenants, who cultivated the land in alternate ridges; and it is said that disputes as to the one encroaching upon the property of the other were very rare. Were such a mode of cultivation in existence now, it would lead to interminable feuds. Till after the middle of the last century the universal practice was for the farmer and his family to sit in the kitchen and mess at the same board with their servants. The moral influence of this practice, and the kindly feelings which it engendered, are now no more. The line of demarcation between master and servant is now more distinctly drawn, and it is believed that not one instance of this practice now exists in the parish. A small landed proprietor, who was alive within these fifteen years, was among the last to give it up. Until the period of his second marriage, when he was far advanced in life, he rigidly adhered to the good old practice of his forefathers; but at length he consented to take a cup of tea at breakfast with his wife in the parlour, upon condition that he should first have his pint bicker of porridge as usual with his servants in the kitchen; and this practice he continued till within a few years of his death.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| In 1811 the population was | - | 918 |
| 1821, | - | 810 |
| 1831, | - | 836 |

Of these 190 reside in the village.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| 1. Number of families in the parish, | - | - | 144 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 80 |
| chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, | - | - | 29 |
| 2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | - | - | 14 |
| of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45, | - | - | 27 |
| 3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years, | - | - | 14 |
| of deaths, | - | - | 9 |
| of marriages,* | - | - | 7½ |

* During the last seven years 53 couples have been proclaimed, but as it frequently happens that only one of the parties is resident in the parish, proclamation of banns is consequently made in two parishes. No accurate general conclusions, therefore, can be drawn as to the number of marriages that take place in Scotland from an inspection of the parochial registers.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| 4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age, | - | - | 311 |
| upwards of 70, | - | - | 22 |

There are no nobility or persons of independent fortune residing in the parish. There are 9 proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, all of whom are non-resident.

Number of inhabited houses, 144. Of houses now building, 3.

Language, Habits, &c. of the People.—The language generally spoken is a corrupt Scotch, with a barbarous admixture of English. A few only of the oldest of the people speak the Scottish dialect in its purity. These, however, are rapidly disappearing, and in a few years more in all probability there will not be one person alive who could have held converse with his grandfather without the aid of a dictionary.

Those who are in the prime of life, and in full employment, generally kill a sheep about Martinmas, and a pig of their own rearing. This is all the butcher-meat that is consumed in the family of a married ploughman, or respectable labourer, during the year; and with this frugal fare they are contented and happy, and enjoy good health. In several families tea is substituted for porridge and milk at breakfast, and it is to be regretted that this pernicious habit is gradually gaining ground. Wherever it is habitually indulged in a peasant's family, poverty and wretchedness are its invariable attendants, and the necessaries of life cannot be procured in sufficient abundance to support the general health. It is a luxury above the means of a labouring man, and it is doubtful whether it be not a more productive source of poverty, misery, and vice than the unrestrained use of ardent spirits. Our legislators would do well to consider this; and as they cannot change the habits of the people, to lower the duty on tea and sugar, so as to bring them within the compass of every industrious peasant's means.

Poaching in game and the salmon fisheries prevails to such an extent, that the game is in danger of being extirpated; and of the salmon that come into the river to spawn few are permitted to return again to the sea.

There has been no smuggling in the parish since the change in the distillery laws; and pawnbroking was never known in it.

During the last three years, there have been four illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--------|
| Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, | - | - | 21,250 |
| acres which are either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, | - | - | 4,370 |
| which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly in waste or in pasture, | - | - | 15,880 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of acres that might with a profitable application of capital be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage, or in permanent pasture, | 1,190 |
| under wood, the greater part of which has been planted within the last 30 years, | 1,050 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre in the parish is L. 1, 15s. for in-field, and 12s. 6d. for out-field land. The average rent of grazing is L. 5 for a milk cow; L. 3 for a full-grown ox or heifer; 5s. for a black-faced sheep; and 6s. for a Cheviot sheep, pastured for the year.

Rate of Wages.—Ploughmen fit for every kind of farm-work receive L. 12 per annum, with victuals. If married, they have generally, in addition to their wages, a free house, a milk cow, the usual allowance of meal, half a boll of potatoes planted, and their fuel driven gratis. These allowances, together with their wages, may be fairly estimated at L. 25 per annum. Female-servants receive L. 6 a-year; and masons and carpenters 15s. per week.

Improvements.—Much has been done with respect to reclaiming waste land, draining, irrigation, and embanking upon all the farms that have been let within the last twenty years. Almost every spot capable of irrigation has been irrigated, and wet land has been made dry. The general agriculture of the parish, however, has been greatly retarded, in consequence of one-half of the parish having been let by the late Earl of Portmore upon fifty-seven years leases. The farmers sitting at easy rents contented themselves with cultivating the dry and most productive spots, and left the rest in a state of nature. These leases expire at Whitsunday next, when great improvements may be expected to take place. There are no enclosures in this part of the parish, and the farm-buildings are in a state of great decay. The steadings in the other parts of the parish are most complete and comfortable. Most of the farms are enclosed with ring fences, and several of them are completely subdivided. This practice it is probable will soon become universal, as the opinion is becoming very general that our land has been so long under the plough that it cannot be much longer cultivated with advantage without being thrown into pasture for a few years. This, however, can only be done by means of enclosures. One large farm, the property of Lord Cringletie, is now managed in this way. It is completely subdivided. The tenant pastures it with sheep for three years after every rotation, and the increase of produce is very great. The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

Average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish :

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals, | L. 5,225 | 0 | 0 |
| Of potatoes, turnips, beet, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food, | 1,252 | 0 | 0 |
| Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated, | 965 | 0 | 0 |
| Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 6 per milk cow, and L. 3, 10s. per full-grown ox or heifer grazed for the season, and at 8s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep pastured for the year, | 5,376 | 0 | 0 |
| Of gardens and orchards, | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods and plantations, | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Of young horses reared for stock or sale, | 275 | 0 | 0 |
| Of miscellaneous produce, not enumerated under any of the foregoing heads, | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce raised, | L. 13,693 | 0 | 0 |
| Rental of the parish, | 6,364 | 0 | 0 |

Live-Stock.—Black-faced sheep 2960, Cheviot do. 2520, total, 5480. Milk cows 274, young cattle 440; horses for farm labour 110, do. for harness and saddle, 16; young horses reared for stock or sale, 55.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-town and Means of Communication.—Peebles is the nearest market-town, and is four miles from the village of Eddlestone. There is a post-office in the village, and a daily post to and from Edinburgh and Peebles. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is twenty-one miles, and a public coach from Peebles to Edinburgh passes through the parish daily.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is the only place of worship in the parish. It is situated two miles from the southern extremity of the parish, and eight from the northern. More than one-half of the population reside within a mile and a-half of it. The greater part of those at the northern extremity either go to the neighbouring church at Pennycuick, or to the dissenting meeting-houses at Howgate and Bridge-end.

The church was rebuilt in 1829, and contains accommodation for 420 persons. Each heritor has a portion of the area allotted to him in proportion to his valued rent, which he subdivides among his tenants. The space occupied by the communion table is free to all, and affords accommodation for 36 persons.

The manse was built about fifty years ago. The late incumbent received only L. 160 from the heritors, which was the estimated expense for repairing the old manse. Out of his own funds, with the addition of this sum, he built entirely the present manse and offices. A large addition was lately made to the manse by the present incumbent at his own expense, amounting to L. 380. The extent of the glebe is 28 imperial acres, and may be estimated at the yearly value of L. 30 Sterling. The stipend awarded by the Court of Teinds in 1823 was 15 chalders of victual, half meal, half

barley, exclusive of L. 8, 6s. 8d. for furnishing communion elements. But as part of the teinds were surrendered, the stipend, as allocated, and now payable to the incumbent, stands thus :

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--------|----|----|
| Surrendered money teind, | - | - | - | - | L. 96 | 0 | 6 |
| 10 chalders, 5 bolls, 3 pecks, $1\frac{4}{5}$ lip. of grain, at L. 13, 12s. per chaldar, | | | | | 140 | 5 | 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | | L. 236 | 5 | 6 |
| Deduct for communion elements, | - | | | | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | | L. 227 | 18 | 10 |

Number of persons attending the Established church 736 ; of those who attend chapels of Seceders and Dissenters, 100.

Divine service at the Established church is well attended, those at a considerable distance being in general most regular. The average number of communicants at the Established church is 212, and the average amount of church collections yearly for the support of the poor of the parish is L. 22 ; for religious and other charitable purposes, L. 5.

It is a singular fact in the ecclesiastical history of the parish, that the present incumbent and his forefathers have been ministers of Eddlestone for 137 years. James Robertson, the present incumbent's great-grandfather, was ordained minister of Eddlestone in 1697, and served the cure for fifty years. He died in 1747, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander, who had been his ordained assistant and successor for a number of years. After his death in 1772, he was succeeded by his son, Dr Patrick Robertson, who performed all the clerical duties of the parish for the space of fifty years. He died in the month of May 1822, and was succeeded by his son, the present incumbent, who had been ordained his assistant and successor in 1819. There is reason to believe that this is the only instance in the history of the Church of Scotland, of four individuals of the same family, in uninterrupted succession from father to son, serving the cure of the same parish.

Such a connection is of a more than ordinarily hallowed nature, and tends to unite more closely the pastor and his flock in the bonds of mutual love and affection. And to a rightly constituted and virtuous mind, it must be a matter of pleasing and interesting reflection, to consider that many of those who now wait upon the ministry of the present incumbent, are the descendants of the very men who, 137 years ago, listened in the same place to the pastoral admonitions of his great-grandfather.

Education.—The parochial school is the only school in the parish. The branches generally taught in it are English reading, writing, and arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French, and mathematics. The

schoolmaster has the maximum salary, amounting to L. 34, 4s. 4½d., and the school fees from the children of the parish amount to L. 42 per annum. The actual emoluments of the schoolmaster, however, are very great, as there is a large boarding establishment attached to the parish school, and the number of boys attending it from various parts of the kingdom average in general from 30 to 40.*

The school fees are 2s. per quarter for English reading; 3s. for reading and writing; and 3s. 6d. when arithmetic is conjoined. The fees for the other branches are at the discretion of the teacher. The people in general are alive to the benefits of education; and there is not one person in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read and write.

The northern extremity of the parish is too remote to admit of the children attending the parish school. A private school was kept there for several years, and was attended by about thirty children; but as there was no salary to the teacher, the emoluments from the school fees were so small, that it has lately been given up. An additional school might be established with great advantage near the northern extremity either of this or the adjoining parish of Newlands, which would afford all the additional accommodation that is required for both parishes, without materially diminishing the numbers attending the parochial schools.

Charitable and other Institutions.—There are none in the parish. Almost all the men, however, are members of some of the neighbouring friendly societies, from which much benefit and comfort are derived in sickness and old age, and a spirit of independence excited and maintained. There was a saving bank established at the time they were first introduced into Scotland. It was continued for five or six years with very considerable success. The servant-girls drew from it, when about to be married, upon an average, L. 10. At length it was considered expedient to transfer the deposits to the neighbouring bank at Peebles. A considerable prejudice at first existed in the minds of the people against these banks. Many were of opinion that they were established from a desire on the part of their masters to ascertain how much they could save, and that ultimately there would be an attempt made to

* The expediency of such an appendage to a parochial school is very doubtful. Before the boarding system commenced, the number of children belonging to the parish attending the school amounted to 100; but as the number of boarders increased, the number of the parish children gradually diminished, till now they do not exceed 70, although the population of the parish is as great as formerly. The people have an idea, although probably there is no just foundation for it, that their children must be neglected for that part of the establishment which is so much more productive. The consequence of this impression, however erroneous, is, that the children are neither sent so young, nor continued so long at school as formerly.

reduce their wages by that amount. This illiberal suspicion has long since died away. The investments for the most part are made by farm-servants at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. The most numerous class of contributors are the servant-girls.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Average number of persons receiving parochial aid, 15. Average sum allotted to each person per annum, L. 4. Annual amount of contributions for their relief, L. 64: of this sum, L. 22 are procured from church collections; L. 9 from interest of money; and the remainder by assessment upon the heritors and tenants, in equal proportions.

A poors' rate was established in the parish in 1752, and has continued ever since. The heritors and kirk-session meet twice a-year, and fix the aliment for each pauper for the ensuing half-year. The clerk is instructed to draw the stent to the amount required, and the minister and kirk-session have a discretionary power to the extent of one-half of the weekly collections, to meet any contingencies that may occur.

There is still a strong aversion on the part of the poor to apply for parochial aid. During the last ten years, not one direct application for aid has been made by the party requiring relief. Many of them would rather die of want, than acknowledge their poverty and ask the benefit of the funds.

Fairs.—There is a fair held annually in the village on the 25th September. It was formerly a great cattle-market. The only business now transacted is the hiring of farm-servants for the winter half-year.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There is only one alehouse in the parish, the demoralizing effects of which are rapidly increasing. Twenty years ago, almost the only thing called for was a bottle of small-beer; but since the late reduction in the duty on spirits, a great change has taken place in the habits of the people. Whisky, harsh and undiluted, is now the favourite, and almost the only, beverage; and drunkenness is rapidly extending among a class of men who formerly were habitually sober, viz. farm-servants and labourers. A marked improvement, however, has taken place in the habits of the tenantry and the better classes of society; and the deep drinking that was so prevalent among them forty years ago, is now of very rare occurrence.

Fuel.—The only fuel which the parish contains is peats, which the peasantry manufacture for themselves. Coals are procured at a moderate expense from the adjoining pits of Mid-Lothian.

April 1834.

PARISH OF LINTON.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER FORRESTER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—LINTON no doubt derives its name from Lyne, one of the tributary streams of Tweed, rising out of that high ground which separates the county from Mid-Lothian on the north, and is a continuation of the Pentland range. In former times, it appears to have been written Lyneton and Lynton. There is a parish of the same name in the county of Roxburgh. There is also a considerable village so called, in the county of East-Lothian and parish of Prestonkirk; and there are several parishes in England of the name of Linton.

It is bounded on the east by Pennycuik; on the south by Newlands, and Kirkurd; on the west by Dolphinton and Dunsyre; and on the north by West-Calder, Mid-Calder, and Kirknewton. It is distant sixteen miles from Edinburgh, and is understood to contain about twenty-five square miles.

Meteorology—Climate.—Situated 600 feet above the level of the sea, the climate may be considered moist, and more subject to boisterous weather than regions of less elevation. It is, however, healthy, and not subject to any particular distemper. In common with districts of the same elevation, it is subject to autumnal frosts. At the same time, it must be remarked, that of late years, this peculiarity of our atmosphere has been greatly corrected by the draining of our marshy low lying grounds, and it is hoped, as this improvement goes on, that in future this part of the country will be less subject to this evil.

Mineralogy.—The rocks in this parish are chiefly those of the coal and porphyry formations. Coal and limestone have been long wrought at Carlops. At present there is also a regular sale of coal both at Harlamuir and Coalyburn at 10d. per load, which is two cwt. Lime is also sold at Whitfield; the price is 1s. 6d. per boll, and 20,000 bolls have been disposed of in a season. At Deepsykehead there is a good freestone quarry. In several other

places freestone is also to be got in the parish, and at Badensgill, limestone of an excellent quality has lately been discovered.

The hill of Leadlaw, in the immediate vicinity of the village of Linton, would indicate it to be possessed, or supposed to be possessed, of the mineral after which it is named. Accordingly, attempts have been made, at different periods, in search of lead on this hill. The last attempt was made only a few years ago; but on both occasions the attempts were unsuccessful. It would also appear, that, in the neighbourhood of the lead workings, search had been made for silver, and the ground in various places exhibits the appearance of the operations of the workmen, which to this day are known by the name of "the siller holes."

Amongst the mineralogical productions of the parish, pebbles should not be omitted to be mentioned, which are often to be found of great beauty, and vying with the celebrated Cairngorum.

Soil.—The soil is various. Generally the sub-soil is sand or gravel with a mixture of moss, and is of more or less fertility. In the upper part of the parish the land is interspersed with heath, and considerable tracks of moss of various depths and quality. In the lower district of the parish, there is much excellent land, producing good crops, and well adapted to the turnip husbandry. There the soil is generally a sandy loam, with an intermixture of clay and moss.

Hydrography.—On the farm of south Slipperfield, there is a loch or sheet of water, of about a mile and a-half in circumference, and of considerable depth, frequented during summer, by flocks of water-fowl, abounding in pike and perch, and resorted to in winter by those who delight in curling. This sheet of water is nearly in the centre of an extensive track of ground, consisting of upwards of 2000 acres in a state of nature. It is almost entirely covered with heath, and presents every variety of moor and moss. On this moor various important improvements are carrying on.

Besides the Lyne traversing the parish from north to south, there are the Esk and the Medwin, both arising out of the same range of hills to the north,—the former being the eastern, and the latter the western boundary of the parish; as a proof of the height of that part of the country, whilst the main branch of the Medwin winds its course to Clyde, a stream goes off from it at Garvaldfoot, and finds its way to Tweed. The parish everywhere abounds in excellent springs of water. None of them are medicinal, excepting one at Rutherford, which goes by the name of "Heaven aqua." Who gave it that name, or first discovered its virtues, is not known. Situated formerly so as to be extremely difficult of access, the new

turnpike road now passes in its immediate vicinity, and a coach travels daily between Edinburgh and Dumfries close by the well, where an elegant inn, with the best accommodation, may be got by those resorting to it. Scientific analysis ascribes to it the qualities of Tunbridge.

Botany.—The botanist will find, on the track of 2000 acres before-mentioned, a beautiful variety of the *Primula farinosa*, which it is said is rarely to be found in this country.

Although situated in the immediate vicinity of the Forest of Ettrick, there are no remains in the parish of the natural wood which at a remote period unquestionably covered it to a great extent, as appears from the remains of various kinds of timber which are still constantly dug up in the making of peats,—specimens being found in a state almost approaching to petrification. The first attempt to supply the decay of the natural wood in this parish seems to have been made in compliance with the statutes of James II., III., and IV., which enacted, “that trees should be planted;” and there were lately, about the old farm-steadings, a few straggling ashes and elms, some of which are still to be seen, the result of these enactments. About a century ago, there still remained about Linton, *according to tradition*, a considerable deal of valuable timber about the yards and steadings, which a person, who had acquired about that time extensive property there, cut down, and thereby greatly indemnified himself of the price which he had paid, but without putting in a single plant in compensation of the desolation which he had wrought about the village. It was not till about the beginning of the present century, that any plantations were made in the parish deserving to be noticed under the head of modern improvements, excepting some wood at Garvaldfoot, which had been planted about fifty years before in hedge-rows, and also in clumps, a good deal of which was cut down several years ago.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—In the vicinity of Carlops, immediately opposite to Newhall house, on the southern bank of the Esk, there is a place called Harbour Craig, which is a freestone projecting rock over a deep hollow glen, formed by the precipitous banks of two streams which here empty themselves in the Esk. On this dreary and secluded spot, tradition states that the Covenanters sat down after their defeat at the battle of Pentland, and there found a temporary refuge in the fastness of this sequestered valley, which, perhaps, afterwards received the name which it still bears, from

the shelter which it gave to the fugitives on this occasion. On the rock there is still to be seen the initials of some of them, together with the date of the period when they took up their abode in this solitude, and for some time, undisturbed by their enemies, performed those religious services to which they were devoted, and cheerfully suffered "the loss of all things."

In several places stone coffins have been found in the parish, and also cairns, about which tradition is silent. They have been dug up in a bank upon the Lyne in the Temple lands near Linton; and a Roman urn is stated to have been found in a cairn still remaining in Garvaldfoot moor. A few years ago, on a rising ground called Castlelaw, immediately above Linton on West Third, there stood a cairn where there was found a stone coffin rudely put together, the contents evidently showing the remains of bones, and, from the height to which the stones had been carried, plainly manifesting that the body of a person of no small consideration had been buried on the spot.*

III.—POPULATION.

The population remained nearly stationary for some years after the publication of the last Statistical Account in 1790. Since that period, it has increased by additional hands being employed in cotton weaving, agricultural improvements, and the formation of roads.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| In 1801, the population was | 1090 | males 590 | females 500 |
| In 1811, - - - | 1100 | 565 | 565 |
| In 1821, - - - | 1194 | 584 | 610 |
| In 1831, - - - | 1577 † | 867 | 710 |
| In 1832, - - - | 1350 | 725 | 625 |

In the villages of Linton and Carlops, there are 572 inhabitants.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| The number of families in the parish in 1831 was | - | - | 297 |
| chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | 63 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | 92 |

There are 22 heritors of this parish, having properties from L. 100 to L. 600 or L. 700 of land rent per annum, exclusive of lime, coal, and freestone. Two heritors reside in the parish. There are 32 tenants occupying the land, upon leases of nineteen years generally of endurance, and paying from L. 60 to L. 500 of rent,—besides some parks that are let to graziers for one year.

The usual variety of tradesmen is to be found in this parish. The collieries and quarries employ about fifty hands. At the time of the publication of the last Statistical Account, two or three looms are stated to have been employed in making cotton cloth for Edin-

* Some notices of minor antiquities will be found in the original MS.

† The increased population in 1831 arose from a new turnpike road being set agoing that year, and calling for an additional supply of labour.

burgh and Glasgow. There are at present in the parish 83 looms employed in that manufacture. Two dozen looms were also stated to be employed in customary or household manufacture. There are at present only two looms in Linton, and three in Carlops employed in that trade. There are 5 tailors, 4 dress-makers, 2 butchers, 5 carriers, 9 retailers of meal, groceries, and spirits, 2 surgeons, 4 innkeepers, in the parish.

Of illegitimate births there are generally about three yearly in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| The number of acres cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, is | - | 4,000 |
| Uncultivated,* | - | 19,500 |
| Capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital, | - | 1,500 |
| In undivided common, Linton Green, | - | 2 |
| Under wood, | - | 400 |

In the last Statistical Report, the number of sheep kept in the parish was stated to be, “by a rough computation, *about ten thousand.*” The number at present is 9640; the decrease being 360. In explanation of this, it is to be observed, that in 1790 there were no Cheviot sheep in the parish, whereas at present, in the number now stated, there are of the Cheviot breed 3660; and, wherever that sheep is introduced, a smaller number is kept. There is, besides, a good deal of land that was formerly stocked with sheep now under the plough, or pastured with cattle; and the importance of light stocking is now better understood.

Husbandry.—The management of both the Cheviot and black-faced breeds is the same. The lambs are sold in the Edinburgh market, the best, however, being reserved for keeping up the stock, in supplying those sold off in the end of the season, or to be kept on turnips. If retained and kept all winter, they are sold off as hogs at Linton June market. The practice of feeding the old cast off ewes upon turnips had just commenced at the time of the last Report, and is now universally practised. Various mixtures are now used as substitutes for tar in smearing, which is much disused. The chief ingredient employed at present is train-oil and cocoa-nut oil. Ewe-milk cheese is very little made in this parish, the attention of the farmer being at present directed mainly to the carcase, to which milking is unfavourable.

There is nothing particular in the cattle and corn-farming to be remarked which is not in general practice. It may, however, just

* Much of this uncultivated land is fine sheep pasture, which it would not be advisable to break up from its elevated and inaccessible situation.

be observed, that the parish is not surpassed by any in the county, either in regard to the mode of management adopted, or in the spirit with which it is conducted. All the modern improvements are here to be found; and fewer of the old modes which the new school of husbandry has exploded are retained than in most parishes of the district. Threshing-machines have long been in very general use in every farm of any extent, and the in-field and out-field system has long been given up.

Milk-cows are the cattle mostly kept, and their produce finds a ready market in Edinburgh. There are also kept on several of the farms Highland cattle bought at Falkirk and Hallow Fair, which are kept in winter, and either sold off in the spring, or put to pasture, to be fed for the butcher on the farm. The milk-cows are nearer the Ayrshire breed than any other. The Teeswater are also kept, and crosses of these kinds are the general stock of the parish.

Live-Stock.—The number both of horses and cattle is considerably increased, from a circumstance already stated. The number stated in the last Report was 460 cattle, and 130 horses. There are now 772 cattle,—which explains the smaller number of sheep kept at present than in 1790. The present number of horses is 176.

Rate of Wages.—Of late, wages have rather declined from their former rates. This season wages have been from L. 10 to L. 13 for men, with victuals. Women-servants were hired at Linton spring market on March 29, 1833, from L. 3 to L. 4, and upwards, for the summer half-year. Last summer labourers received, without victuals, from 9s. to 10s. weekly. Cotton-weavers at one period gained as high as 14s. per week. At present they hardly earn above 5s. during that period.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, is

| | | | |
|--|-----------|----|---|
| 4000 quarters of oats, which at present prices may be estimated at in pounds Sterling, | L. 3,200 | 0 | 0 |
| 200 acres in turnip, which, being employed in rearing as well as fattening sheep and cattle, is given to milk cows, the value cannot be estimated. | | | |
| 100 acres in potatoes, valued at L. 7 on an average per acre, | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| 93,000 stones of rye-grass hay at 5d. per stone, | 1937 | 10 | 0 |
| 86,800 of meadow do. at 3d per stone, | 460 | 10 | 0 |
| Mines, minerals, &c. | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 330 milk cows at L. 5 per annum, in milk, &c. | 1,650 | 0 | 0 |
| The other cattle, 130 sold off either reared, fattened, or sold off to fatten, gross average, L. 8, 10s. each, | 1,105 | 0 | 0 |
| 3600 Cheviot sheep, 6s. 6d. each, | 1,189 | 10 | 0 |
| 5660 black-faced, 5s. 6d. each, | 1,644 | 10 | 0 |
| Average gross produce, | L. 14,000 | 0 | 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets.—From time immemorial sheep markets have been held at Linton, and of late one market is held on the last Tuesday of June. The sheep produced are principally one year old or *hogs*, as they are called, and come from all the surrounding counties. * They were brought in former times to be sent to the Highlands; but of late, for the most part, they are sent to Fife, Perth, Angus-shire, Lammermuir, and the English fairs. Earl Wemyss, as superior, draws a custom of 1s. 1d. per score at this market. Of late years the store-masters have established a market here on the Friday before the first Monday of April and on the Friday before the 25th of September, chiefly for the disposal of stock and hiring servants,—which promises to be a great convenience to the district. In the month of August a show of stock is held here, and the breeds produced are allowed to be creditable to the district. In the winter months a ploughing match is held, and four prizes are given to the best workmen, which is found to be attended with good effects in exciting emulation, both in regard to their particular occupation, and in keeping their horses in good plight, as well as their various utensils and furniture.

Villages.—Linton is situated nearly in the centre of the parish. It consists of 90 houses, and contains 395 inhabitants,—160 males, and 235 females. It is irregularly built, and, from several of the houses having their gables to the street, has some appearance of antiquity. One of the houses of this description tradition states to have been contemporary with Drochil Castle 1578, or as it is written, Droich holes in ancient deeds. This house, now belonging to Sir John Hay, it is understood, was built by the same tradesmen who were employed about the castle, and who, being allowed Saturday to themselves, occupied their time in building this house, which has been inhabited ever since; whilst the massy stately fortress of Regent Morton was never either inhabited or finished. A medical gentleman of much experience, and resident here for some years, authorizes me to state, “That he has found the village to be peculiarly healthy, not having observed for several years any thing almost in the shape of disease, excepting influenza and scarlatina. This healthy state

* For some years, one market has been held on the last Tuesday of June, where the whole business of the season is settled. The Highlands now being fully stocked, the sheep are sent as above-stated. To understand the statement in regard to our markets, it is necessary to observe, that formerly there were four markets: two in the last week of June and first week of July, and two in the second and third weeks of July in succession.

of the people he ascribes to the situation of the village upon the banks of the Lyne, whose course, through a glen-like concavity, keeps up an incessant current of air, keen, bracing, and invigorating, and thus counteracts the ordinary causes of pestilential distemper; whilst, at the same time, a fine exposure to the south, and a double range of hills to the north, affords considerable shelter during the greatest inclemency of the season."

Formerly six families occupied the site of the village of Carlops, now consisting of 36 houses, and containing 177 inhabitants. They are mostly cotton-weavers.

Means of Communication.—The old road from Edinburgh being very ill directed, the approach to the village, both from the west and the east, was extremely difficult for a carriage of any description; but by a new line lately made and opened last year, various dangerous acclivities were avoided, and, bringing into view the village, which was formerly quite hid from the traveller, it has already been considerably improved in its appearance by new houses being erected, whilst two inns also have been built on this road, one at Linton, and another at Rutherford, with post-horses and every accommodation which the public could wish. A new line of road from Carlops to Ingraston, to the south of the old road, was not long ago formed. The trustees of Lanarkshire and Mid-Lothian gave every encouragement to this undertaking, but the majority of those in the county of Peebles gave every opposition to it. At length, after much opposition and delay, an act of Parliament was obtained, authorizing the new line under the direction of Mr Jardine, civil-engineer, in which there is not a rise of more than one foot in thirty-seven; and six heritors of Linton undertook at their own risk, upon getting an assignation of the tolls, to make this road, which has been made accordingly, and was opened more than twelve months ago,—traversing the parish for six miles, and giving universal satisfaction to the public. There is perhaps no trust in the county at present whose revenue affords a better prospect of providing a fund at once for reducing the debt, and for keeping the roads under it in the best state of repair.

It may be added, that it would be of no small importance to the public that a road in continuation of that lately made to Badensgill, towards the Caldstone slap, should be executed, so as to open a proper communication with the other side of the hill, and to the north by Falkirk, Stirling, and Queensferry. It is obvious that such a measure appears to be equally beneficial to the other side of the slap, the county of Mid and West-Lothian open-

ing up to them a more ready and direct communication to the south. As nearly three miles of this road from Linton have already been made, it remains with the gentlemen to the north of the slap to show an equally favourable disposition to the undertaking, and they may be assured that they will be readily met by the heritors of Linton from the south.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church and manse were built in 1781. To the manse are attached the ordinary offices and a garden, with fourteen acres of arable land. The stipend consists of fifteen chalders, half barley and half meal, payable at the rate of the fiars of the county. When grain gives L. 1 per boll, it may be calculated at L. 240; at present it is below that sum.

There are two classes of dissenters in the parish. One of them, the United Secession church, has a meeting-house in Linton. The number of communicants belonging to it in this parish at present is 124, the rest of the congregation being made up from the six neighbouring parishes. The other sect of dissenters belong to the Relief, and have a meeting-house in the parish of Newlands, and fifty members belonging to Linton form part of that congregation. In this parish there are 300 communicants belonging to the Established church.

Education.—Mr Thomas Brown, a preacher of the gospel, is schoolmaster, with the maximum salary of L. 34 Sterling, and a house and garden. His terms of teaching are 2s. per quarter for English reading; and including writing, arithmetic, and Latin, are respectively 2s. 6d., 3s., and 5s. per quarter. The number of scholars during the winter quarters is about 100, and nearly the same in spring and during the rest of the year. The ordinary branches of education, with geography, are taught. Classical literature here is rather on the decline at present. L. 10 a-year, exclusive of wages of teaching, may be the amount of his other emoluments. A considerable part of the population being situated about three miles and upwards from the parish school, many of the children attend two private schools in the eastern part of the parish, and at Ninemileburn, in Penicuik; also at Dolphinton, Kirkurd, and at Lamancha, in the parish of Newlands. Two Sabbath evening schools are held at Linton and one at Carlops, where the Scriptures are read, and examinations of the children also are carried on. There are at present attending the Sabbath evening school of Linton about 70, and at Carlops, 40.

Library.—A parish library was begun about forty years ago, and consists of upwards of 500 volumes on history, travels, essays,

&c. &c. &c. It excludes all books on theological and political controversy.

Poor.—Certain it is that pauperism has been on the increase. No doubt this may be attributed to the late increase of the population, consisting chiefly as it does of the lower orders; and also to the greater liberality of the times, which pays more attention than formerly to the wants of the people, and which, on every occasion of the rise of the price of provisions, has led to measures which in other days would never have been looked upon as called for. Accordingly, whilst for ten years previous to 1782 the parochial expense did not exceed L. 20, and for the next ten years the annual sum amounted only to L. 25, it has since gradually risen to L. 100 and upwards annually, and last year it was L. 118, from which falls only to be deducted the allowances (L. 8, 14s.) made to the precentor and session-clerk, together with the dues of the beadle, presbytery, and synod clerks. For a good many years no heritor had a permanent residence within the parish,—an arrangement which may be presumed to have been hurtful to the parish both in regard to matters of police and in regard to the poor, who could not fail to be benefited by the residence of the wealthy. In the circumstances of the parish adverted to, and when none of the rents are returned to it in the encouragement of the industry of the inhabitants, it could not be expected that the church collections, together with the usual funds arising from the use of the mortcloth, the fee at the proclamation of banns, and the interest of L. 229 of mortified money, should be adequate to supply the wants of the poor, more especially during periods of peculiar pressure and exigency. Accordingly, it was proposed to the heritors, that they should enter into a voluntary subscription, in supplement of the above ordinary funds, and in proportion to their respective interests in the parish. This measure was heartily gone into, and the sum of L. 60 has been raised annually for the above purpose, and in times of peculiar distress this sum has been proportionally increased. In a parish like this, where there is a small proportion of resident heritors, whose duty and interest it is to give a helping hand to the poor, and a tenantry, all paying pretty tight rents, much occupied about their own proper business, and often necessarily absent from home, there seem to be insuperable difficulties in carrying into effect any measures similar to those recommended and practised with success by Dr Chalmers in the differently constituted parish of St John's.

Friendly Society, &c.—There is a friendly society in the parish; and there has been kept a savings bank at Newlands for several

years, to which the people of this parish have access ; and both institutions have been observed to be attended with great benefit to those who have had the good sense to avail themselves of the privileges which they confer.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The great body of the people enjoy in a very considerable degree the conveniences and comforts of life. They are industrious and enterprising, as well as exemplary in the stations of life which they occupy. In former times the inhabitants who used animal food were in the practice of laying up about Martinmas such salted provisions of that article as would serve for the ensuing year. This mode is much discontinued, and beef, as well as lamb and mutton, being much more generally used than formerly, are obtained of excellent quality, at all times, from two butchers, carrying on their trade in Linton. Within the same period a considerable change has also taken place in regard to dress, as well as the mode of living. The reduced number of household or customer weavers in the parish, alluded to under a preceding article, is a sufficient proof, if any other were wanting, that hodden-gray "of the gudewife's spinning," together with some other manufacture of the same material, forms hardly any part of the attire either of our male or female population.

Although at the publication of the last Statistical Account the improved system of husbandry had commenced, it was not till some years afterwards that it was generally adopted. Among the most important improvements has been the draining, by Mr John Hume, of Linton bog, a morass of 100 acres, which has been brought under the plough. Various important operations were also set agoing by Mr Goldie and Mr Kerr in enclosing, planting, and draining on Leadlaw, Rutherford, and Broomlee, which have greatly improved, as well as ornamented, these properties, formerly in a state very unproductive ; and whilst a few straggling hogs were all that was to be seen, picking up what they could find on these wild moors, there have been grazing this summer stocks of excellent cattle and sheep ; while there are most extensive fields of turnip, on one of which, perhaps the largest and best of the parish, sheep was fed off, and the other crops of the rotation were going on. Mr Robertson, tenant in Broomlee, gained the highest prize for black-faced tups at the Highland Society's show of stock held at Stirling last autumn, and sold them on the same day at five guineas a-head. The rental of the parish, which was at the publication of last Statistical Account L. 2350, is at present, as taken up by three of the most intelligent tenants of this parish, L. 6560.

May 1834.

UNITED PARISHES OF LYNE AND MEGGET.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER AFFLECK, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries, Name.—The parish of Lyne is between three and four miles in length, and about three in breadth. It is bounded on the west by Newlands; on the north by Eddleston; on the east by Peebles, and on the south by Stobo. The name is of uncertain origin. By some it has been supposed to arise from *lina*, a Gaelic word signifying water, as the largest stream which enters the Tweed within the county skirts the parish through its whole extent, from the western to the eastern extremity of it.

Topographical Appearances.—Lyne, in the greater portion of it, has a southern exposure sloping from the summits of the hills towards the rivulet by which it is separated from the parish of Stobo. The arable ground in some places is nearly level, but in general it has a declivity; and, by declining southward, it obtains the full benefit of the solar rays, while it is sheltered from the piercing winds of the north. Most of the soil is of a gravelly description, and in ordinary years, when rain is not deficient, the crops are good. The hills are covered with wholesome pasture for sheep, affording that variety of heath and grass which is by many accounted so desirable. They are of inconsiderable height, stretching in a range parallel to the water of Lyne; but about a mile from the eastern limit of the parish, they suddenly recede to a greater distance from it, leaving an ample intervening space well adapted for cultivation. The rocks, which seldom appear above the surface, are what is termed in the district whinstone, commonly, however, inclining to slate.

The rivulet is of considerable magnitude; it rises near the confines of Tweeddale and West Lothian; and, taking an easterly direction, it runs through the parishes of Linton and Newlands, and a little below the parish of Lyne is united with the Tweed, after a course of about twelve or thirteen miles.

Whatever may have been the state of Lyne in former times, it is at present almost divested of trees, belts of which would be a great improvement, as they would not only be ornamental but advantageous, tending to diminish the violence with which the wind frequently blows from the west and the east.

The parish is certainly not insalubrious, and there is no prevailing disease among the inhabitants which might be supposed to arise from some local peculiarity.

Megget, which is situate at the southern extremity of Peeblesshire, and which at one time seems to have been named Rodonno, is distant from Lyne about fourteen miles, with the river Tweed and the parish of Manner intervening between them. It is above six miles in length, and in some places more than five in breadth. It is bounded on the east by Yarrow; on the south by Ettrick and Moffat; on the west by Tweedsmuir; and on the north by Manner. It is almost entirely covered with hills, which extend in two parallel ranges from west to east, having between them a narrow valley, which scarcely in any part exceeds a quarter of a mile in breadth. In this valley the soil is extremely various, but the greater portion of it seems to be very unsuitable for agriculture. There are parts, however, especially near the farm-houses of Cramilt and Henderland, where it is of a much better description, and where crops are obtained not inferior to many in lower situations. Through this level ground runs Megget water, which rises about the western limit of the parish, and though its course is short, it soon becomes a considerable stream by the accessions which it obtains in its progress; and at the eastern boundary it is received by St Mary's loch, a large and beautiful expanse of water, which yearly attracts a number of persons who are eager to behold so pleasing an object, and to enjoy the amusement of angling. On the hills, which occupy most part of the parish, there is a diversity of soil. There are places where it is shallow and dry, but commonly it is deep and wet, and it affords excellent pasture, which produces superior sheep.*

Megget is in one of the most elevated districts in the south of Scotland, and some of the hills rise from their base to a considerable height: there is consequently some degree of damp and cold in the climate, but this is not such as to impair the health of the inhabitants.

* Some ancient historians mention that gold had been found in a stream that runs down Glengaber into Megget water, and traces of the labour employed in searching for it are still discernible, but it does not appear that any has been discovered in modern times.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—As Megget approaches the confines of England and Scotland, it may be supposed that when the two kingdoms were governed by different sovereigns, its inhabitants would experience the disturbance, and be distinguished by the character and habits, which were then so prevalent among the borderers. There are in it the remains of two old towers, which were probably designed for security and for defence against hostile aggressions, and also as watch towers, from which signals might be perceived and given when unexpected incursions were made.—At Henderland there are the vestiges of a chapel and burying-ground, and a tombstone of Cockburn of Henderland, a noted freebooter, with an inscription which is still legible.—About a quarter of a mile west from Lyne church is a Roman camp, which, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since its formation, and the operations to which it has been exposed, still presents a very distinct appearance. Its situation indicates the military prudence which characterized the conquerors of the world. A road leading to it is still visible. Its interior has often been subjected to culture, and Roman coins are said to have frequently been discovered in it; but what these were, or whither they were conveyed, it would now be difficult to ascertain.

The church at Lyne is a solid and ancient edifice. It can scarcely be doubted that it had been built before the Reformation of religion in Scotland. On an oaken seat the year 1644 is marked. The pulpit, which is of the same material, seems to be of a similar age. About thirty years ago a chapel was built in Megget for public worship, with an apartment in it designed for a school-room.

Land-owners.—The land-owners, none of whom reside in the parish, are, the Earl of Wemyss, Mr William Murray of Henderland, and Mr William Purdie, proprietor of Lyne Town Head.

Parochial Registers.—A register was begun in January 1649, in which were concisely stated the acts of the session, purposes of marriage, baptisms, weekly collections and disbursements for the poor. But there have been at times long blanks in the record, or large portions of it must have been lost. In the course of time it seems to have been almost confined to receipts and expenditure in behalf of the indigent. But for a number of years past this register has been more carefully and regularly kept. There has hitherto been no register of deaths, and that of births is not quite complete, as some parents, especially dissenters, often neglect to record in it.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Lyne and Megget appears to have been much greater in former times than at present. In the year 1755, it amounted to 265, and probably it was then considerably less than it had previously been.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|-------------|
| In 1792, it was | 152 | 71 males. | 81 females. |
| 1801, | 167 | 67 | 100 |
| 1811, | 198 | 95 | 101 |
| 1821, | 176 | 87 | 89 |
| 1831, | 156 | 83 | 73 |

The decrease of the population appears to have been chiefly occasioned by the junction of farms, by the absence of several classes of tradesmen who formerly were in the parish, and by the increasing number in Megget of non-resident tenants. The parish record shows that for a series of years two marriages, and three, often four, births, have annually occurred. The population is entirely rural. About the end of 1833 there were in the parish 159 persons, males 83, females 76. Of these there were,

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Below 15 years, | - | 63 |
| Between 15 and 30, | - | 53 |
| Between 30 and 50, | - | 27 |
| Between 50 and 70, | - | 16 |
| Number of families in the parish, | - | 26 |
| of families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | 23 |
| in trade and manufactures, or handicraft, | - | 5 |
| Number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, | - | 4 |
| of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45, | - | 3 |

There is no individual of independent fortune residing in the parish. There are three proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

There is no person in this parish who is insane, or fatuous, or blind, or deaf, or dumb, or deformed.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants of the parish certainly enjoy in a reasonable degree the advantages and comforts of social life, and no symptom of discontentment with their condition is perceptible. They are reflecting and intelligent. They have a taste for knowledge and for reading; and, what is of much greater importance at a time when scepticism and a disposition to remove needful restraints are very prevalent, they show a becoming regard to religion and morality.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—All the males in the parish who have arrived at a suitable age, with the exception of five artisans, are engaged in rural affairs.

It is calculated that above 700 Scotch acres are either under cultivation, or are occasionally ploughed, and that probably more than 11,000 acres are always kept in pasture for sheep. It is not easy

to determine whether capital might be used with advantage for the extension of agriculture, especially in Megget, where the distance from lime and from any additional manure that might be required is so very great. It is likely, however, that 50 or 60 acres might be added to the cultivated land with a reasonable expectation of profit. About 20 acres in separate places have been lately planted with the usual varieties of wood. These plantations exhibit proofs of the good taste and public spirit of the proprietors.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is L. 1 per acre, or rather more. The rent of grazing is estimated at L. 3 for an ox or cow, and 5s. for a ewe or full-grown sheep; but in some high situations, where storms in winter may be very injurious, it is a little less, about 4s. 9d.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of male farm-servants are from L. 10 to L. 13 per annum; of female from L. 6 to L. 7, with victuals and lodging. Male-servants who are married, instead of food and accommodation in the house of their masters, have a free house for themselves and families, six and a-half bolls of oatmeal, pasture for a cow in summer, and fodder in winter, ground for planting half a boll of potatoes, and coal or peat brought for their use, all which, with the payment in money, may amount to L. 24 or L. 25 per annum. Shepherds, as a remuneration for their labour, have pasture for 40 or 45 sheep, with food and lodging in the house of their masters. If married, they have, like those who are employed in agriculture, a separate habitation, the same quantity of oatmeal, six bolls and a-half, pasture and fodder for a cow, commonly a piece of ground for potatoes, and the conveyance of fuel, which, with the produce of their sheep, may be estimated at above L. 30 Sterling per year. But the amount of their wages is very uncertain, varying with the seasons and the state of the markets. Masons and carpenters have from 15s. to 18s. per week, without victuals; and slaters from 18s. to L. 1. Day-labourers receive 2s. and upwards per day, in summer, and from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. in winter.

Breeds of Live-Stock.—The cattle are generally a mixture of the Ayrshire and short-horned breeds. One-half of the sheep are black-faced; the other half are Cheviot, or a mixture of these.

Husbandry.—The farmers are men of capital, intelligence, and enterprise. They are very attentive to their flocks and their herds, and skilful in the management of them. They readily use any expedient for melioration which experience has proved to be efficacious. They consider the nature of the land which they occu-

py, and select the breed, or intermixture of breeds, that seems to be best adapted to it. They are connected with local Associations that are formed for the purpose of encouraging exertion, by conferring premiums on successful competitors. The husbandry which prevails in the parish is that which is most approved in the district. Fallowing, liming, raising of turnips, and artificial grass engage a suitable degree of attention. Draining is practised wherever it is deemed requisite. Several pieces of waste land have been reclaimed. Embankments in various places have been constructed along the sides of the rivulets to prevent the injury which might be occasioned by inundations. No hay or straw is disposed of by sale; all is consumed in the parish. Indeed hay from artificial grass is seldom produced. Fields sown with the seeds of clover and rye-grass are commonly pastured. And, on the whole, agricultural operations seem to be conducted in that judicious manner which renders the ground most productive to the farmer, and most valuable to the proprietor.

The fences which form the enclosures appear to be in a sufficient state. The farm-houses are good and commodious, well-fitted for the accommodation of respectable tenants. The Earl of Wemyss has lately caused to be erected in Megget six substantial houses for shepherds, built of stone and lime, and neatly covered with excellent slates, which give an improved appearance to that part of the parish. Leases generally are for a period of 19 years. Previous to the death of the late Duke of Queensberry, and for some time subsequent to that event, the doubts which were entertained concerning the legality of leases which he had given had an unfavourable influence on agriculture. But when a decision had been finally given in the House of Lords, which ended the litigation, and new leases had been obtained from the Earl of Wemyss and March, increased exertions were soon perceptible. No symptom of deficiency of capital can be discerned. The farmers are active and enterprising, and withhold no expense which is needful in their operations. The proprietors facilitate their efforts by affording every convenience and means of success which can reasonably be desired.—There are very few hedges in the parish, but stone fences in a suitable state are numerous. These have been lately extended over most of the arable land, forming a range of convenient enclosures.

Produce.—The produce of the parish is extremely fluctuating: and it is not easy to state an average amount. The following calculation relates to the present period, and cannot be far from the truth:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---------|---|---|
| Wheat, 150 bolls, | - | - | - | - | L. 180 | 0 | 0 |
| Barley, 322 bolls, | - | - | - | - | 322 | 0 | 0 |
| Oats, 846 bolls, | - | - | - | - | 550 | 0 | 0 |
| Pease, 50 bolls, | - | - | - | - | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes, 360 bolls, | - | - | - | - | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| Turnips, 35 acres, | - | - | - | - | 140 | 0 | 0 |
| Natural hay, 9000 stones, | - | - | - | - | 112 | 0 | 0 |
| 140 cattle, at L. 4 per head, | - | - | - | - | 560 | 0 | 0 |
| 9000 sheep, the produce of which, arising from lamb and fleece, may be estimated at 10s. per head,* | - | - | - | - | 4550 | 0 | 0 |
| Yearly value of produce, | - | - | - | - | L. 6542 | 0 | 9 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—There are four miles of turnpike roads in the parish. Carriers pass weekly through Lyne, conveying merchandise between Hawick and Glasgow. For some years during the summer a coach has passed daily between Glasgow and Kelso, but in the winter it has hitherto been discontinued. There are two bridges over the stream that separates Lyne from Stobo, and one over the water of Megget, all of which are in good condition.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church in Lyne is as eligible as any that could have been selected. It is scarcely more than a mile from any of the inhabited houses which are placed around it. The precise period when it was built is now unknown, but it exhibits evident proofs of antiquity, and probably several centuries have elapsed since its erection. About forty years ago, on the occasion of a repair, as the population had greatly decreased, its length in the inside was diminished by a partition wall which was constructed, and was designed to bound the space intended for seats. It still, however, affords accommodation for about 80 persons, and at ordinary times 20 more might avail themselves of the communion table. In 1830 it underwent a repair, chiefly in the flooring and seats, and the windows also were neatly supplied with glass suited to their antique form. All the seats are free to those by whom they are occupied.

In 1829 a new and commodious manse was built. It is obvious, therefore, that the heritors have manifested no disinclination to the cause of religion, and no repugnance to supply the means of supporting it. The chapel in Megget, erected about thirty years ago for the convenience of public worship, with an apartment in it designed for a school, was built, not at the expense of the heritors, but with

* The price of sheep, lambs, and wool rose greatly during 1833, and may have surpassed the estimate which has now been given, but it should be remembered that previously it must often have been below it, and, if there be an excess, it is doubtful whether it would be more than sufficient to counterbalance the effects of disease and casualties which yearly occur.

money otherwise obtained, combined with the aid of the resident farmers, who assisted in collecting materials for so useful an edifice.

Mr Mitchelson, who was minister of Lyne above a century ago, bequeathed to the parish a sum of L. 50 Sterling, the interest of which was designed for the promotion of literary and religious knowledge among the parishioners. This interest was given to the schoolmaster before the establishment of a legal salary, and has always been employed in accordance with the will of the benevolent donor.

The stipend is L. 149, 5s. 9d., with L. 4, 3s. 4d. for communion elements. The glebe is about fifteen Scotch acres, but in a considerable part of it the soil is inferior, and it was augmented to its present extent in the time of the preceding incumbent, who received an increase of glebe in exchange for a servitude or right of pasturage on the lands of Lyne.

There are 18 families that attend the Established church, and 8 that are connected with dissenters. Of the latter, 2 are adherents of the Cameronians; 2 of the Seceders; and 4 of the Relief body. Both the members of the Established church, and those who belong to other denominations, show a becoming regard to public worship and religious instruction. The dissenters have no place of meeting in the parish, and almost the half of them are so extremely distant from congregations with which they are connected, that they have very few opportunities of hearing preachers of their own persuasion. About 50 communicate in the parish, and some who are prevented by requisite attention to flocks and houses, attend in the neighbouring parishes at their sacramental occasions.

The people take an interest in the diffusion of religious knowledge, and in the removal or alleviation of human suffering; but as the parish is extremely small, and as the one-half of it is at a considerable distance from the other, it is customary for individuals to co-operate with the societies which exist in the more populous parishes that are contiguous to them.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish,—one at Lyne, and another at Megget. The parochial school is at Lyne. The salary is the minimum,—L. 25, 13s. 3½d. The school fees are, for English reading, 2s.; for reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; and for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. 6d. per quarter. They may amount to upwards of L. 12 annually; and the teacher's other emoluments may amount to L. 2, 10s. a-year. Reading and spelling, English grammar, writing, and arithmetic, are taught. The Bible is used. The national catechism, psalms, and paraphrases, are

committed to memory; and means are employed for giving the children a juster notion of the meaning of words, that the treasures contained in books may be more profitable to them. The teacher has the legal accommodations, excepting the garden, which is not of the required extent; but this is compensated by an annual sum of L. 2, paid by the heritors. The school in Megget, on account of the state of the roads,—the numerous streams which intersect them,—and the usual severity of the weather, is not kept during the winter. A teacher is engaged, who begins his labours about Whitsunday, and continues them till Martinmas following. The heritors have allowed L. 7 yearly for the support of the school. The parents of the scholars furnish the teacher in succession with board and lodging. The instruction given is the same in every particular as that which is afforded in the school of Lyne. There is probably not an individual in the whole parish ten years of age, certainly none fifteen years old, who is unable to read, and few, if any, who are not able both to read and to write.

There is neither circulating library, nor friendly society, nor saving bank, in the parish; but individuals avail themselves of those that exist in other places. Generally, the more permanent servants in the parish, remote from the dissipation of towns, and characterized by frugality and diligence, amass sums, which they deposit in the common banks of the country.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—For a long period of time, there have been no poor who were permanently supported by the parish, but individuals and families in protracted affliction have often received temporary aid, and for such occasional assistance, the collections in the church have as yet been sufficient, though, as the parish is small and divided, and without any resident heritor, these are necessarily of small amount. The average yearly amount of church collections is L. 2, 6s. There is a general disposition to avoid, if possible, dependence on parochial aid: and for several years there have been no poor in the parish.

Inns, &c.—There is neither inn nor alehouse, nor place of any description where ardent spirits are sold.

Fuel.—As the distance from other kinds of fuel is great, peat alone is used in Megget. It is mostly obtained on the hills, and it requires a considerable expense of time and labour. Coal is solely employed in Lyne. It is brought from Mid-Lothian and the northern limits of the parish of Newlands. Its costs about 17s. per ton, with a little more or less, according to the difference of quality or distance.

June 1834.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

BY THE REV. JOHN ELLIOT.

MINISTER OF PEEBLES.

THIS county is sometimes termed the county of Peebles from its capital, and sometimes Tweeddale from the Tweed, which runs through the whole district. It lies between $55^{\circ} 24'$ and $55^{\circ} 50'$ north latitude, and from $2^{\circ} 45'$ to $3^{\circ} 23'$ longitude west from London. Its extreme length, from north to south, is about 30 miles, and its greatest breadth, from east to west, is about 22. It is bounded on the north by the county of Mid-Lothian; on the south, by Selkirk and Dumfries; on the east, by Selkirk and Mid-Lothian; and on the west by Lanark. By some it is computed to contain 338 square miles, or 216,320 English acres. According to Armstrong, in his Companion to the Map, who says that he made an actual survey with a chain, it contains 251,320 English acres. Mr Findlater allows a smaller number of acres to a square mile than Armstrong, and gives 229,779 acres.

General Appearances.—Tweeddale may be considered the most elevated county in the south of Scotland, as only a very small part of it on the banks of the Tweed where it enters Selkirkshire is so low as between 400 and 500 feet above the level of the sea.* The highest range of mountains is that which forms the southern boundary, commencing at the eastern extremity of Traquair parish, and extending to the borders of Lanarkshire. Along the summit of these mountains runs the boundary line, from each side of which descend streams which flow into seas on the opposite sides of the island. A great part of this mountain range presents a dismal and forbidding aspect, where a shepherd's cottage is almost the only habitation to be seen. Even the names of places graphically describe their character and inhospitable appearance, such as *Dead for cauld* in Megget parish. A lofty ridge of mountains separates the parishes of Innerleithen and Eddlestone from Mid-Lothian on the east; and on the north, the Water of Leith, the Medwin, a tributary of the Clyde, and the Lyne, a tributary of the Tweed, all have their sources in the Pentland Hills, the boundary in that quarter. Like most mountainous counties, the boundaries are ill-defined, particularly towards the south-east, where Selkirk makes several in-

* It is almost every where bounded by lofty mountains or high grounds.

dentations, and where some land lies of which it is difficult to say whether it belongs to that county or to Peebles. A small part of the parishes of Innerleithen and of Peebles lies in Selkirkshire. *

Rivers.—The only river is the Tweed which, with three trifling exceptions, drains the whole county. None of its tributaries are dignified with the appellation of river, † but receive the name of *waters*, the next in degree. The streams that rise in the county and do not fall into the Tweed, are the Medwin, already mentioned, commencing in the parish of Linton, the North Esk, which rises in the same parish, and the South-Esk, which has its source in Eddestone parish; the last two streams afterwards unite and fall into the sea at Musselburgh. The course of the Tweed is north-east, till it reaches the parish of Peebles, when it takes an easterly direction. There is a circumstance well known to store-farmers and shepherds in this district, which I am not aware has ever been accounted for, but which is worthy of investigation. As long as the Tweed flows in a north-east direction, the hills on both sides of it are equally healthy for sheep pasture, and the disease called *sickness* is very little known. As soon as the river takes an *easterly* direction, the sheep on the right bank become subject to that disease, and also to what is termed the *louping-ill*, to an extent ten times greater than what takes place among those on the left bank, which has a southern exposure.

Ecclesiastical State.—All the parishes in this county belong to the Presbytery of Peebles, except Skirling and the united parishes of Broughton, Kilbucho and Glenholm, which belong to the Presbytery of Biggar. It is probably owing to this ecclesiastical arrangement that these last named parishes are often not recognized as belonging to the county of Peebles, but are transferred to Lanark. There is perhaps nothing more objectionable in our church economy than the *division* or *union* of parishes, in which it frequently happens that very little attention has been paid to the comfort either of the minister or his people. Thus a considerable part of Drummelzier lies on the west side of the Tweed, which, when flooded, prevents the inhabitants of that district from attending the parish church. When the parish of Dawick was suppressed in 1742, and added to Stobo and Drummelzier, the difficulty of crossing the Tweed to attend the church of Stobo never seems to have been considered.

* A great part of the parishes of Kirkurd, Linton and Newlands, may be considered table land, with an elevation between 600 and 850 feet. The pleasure grounds of Whim are exactly the same height as Arthur's Seat.

† The gradation in the names, is first a *syke*, for which there is no English word—then *burn*, *water*, *river*.

Why the parishes of Broughton, Kilbucko, and Glenholm were united it is difficult to conjecture. It was deemed expedient to continue a schoolmaster in each; it would probably have been as advisable to continue a minister in each of them also. If any union was to have taken place, it should have been the annexation of that part of Drummelzier which lies west of the Tweed to the parish of Glenholm. The parishes of Lyne and Megget are united ecclesiastically, though the whole of Manner lies between them. The distance from the manse of Lyne to the church of Megget is 14 or 15 miles, and when the Tweed is flooded, the minister must go round by Peebles, and he has thus upwards of 20 miles to travel. A great error was committed a few years ago by the Presbytery, which I the more readily point out, being then a member of that body. Instead of sanctioning the building of the manse at Lyne, they ought rather to have recommended that it should be placed at Megget, to which part of Ettrick and of the extensive parish of Yarrow might have been added, *quoad sacra*. Lyne, which consists of only two farms, might *quoad sacra* have been united to Stobo or Peebles. The Earl of Wemyss and March is sole proprietor of both parishes, with the exception of the property of Henderland and Lyne Town Head, and, from his Lordship's well known anxiety on all occasions to meet the wishes and consult the comfort of all his ministers, no difficulty whatever on his part would have been thrown in the way to prevent the above arrangements from being carried into effect.

Roads. Means of Communication.—The county is very well intersected by roads, except the parishes on the right bank of the Tweed; and though there is but a scanty population, and there never could be a great thoroughfare, it would be of great advantage to the inhabitants in that district to have a bridge across the river between the bridges of Peebles and Tweedsmuir, and a line of communication opened to the road from Selkirk to Moffat. The mail-coach from Edinburgh to Dumfries passes daily through the parishes of Newlands, Kirkurd, Broughton and Tweedsmuir, and a letter bag is forwarded from Leadburn Toll to Peebles and the adjoining districts. There is a daily coach between Peebles and Edinburgh, and during the summer season two coaches run, chiefly on account of the visitors to Innerleithen. For some years past a coach has run during the summer season between Glasgow and Kelso passing through Peebles. The tolls of the county are this year let for L. 2991, to which may be added L. 360 paid by the Post-Office for the mail-coach.*

* Since the account of the parish of Peebles was written, very considerable improvements have been made.

Agriculture.—A pretty general impression prevails that the plough has encroached too much on the sides of the hills, and that much land that is now arable would have been far more advantageously continued as sheep-pasture. The high price of wool and the low price of all kinds of grain will probably induce many of the farmers to sow out their upper grounds, and lay them down in grass. The importation of grain from Ireland has tended of late years to keep down the Peebles grain-market. Formerly, very considerable quantities were sent from this county to the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, whereas that district is now supplied from Ireland. To counterbalance this depreciation of one kind of produce, steam navigation promises to keep up the price of lambs and fat sheep, which find a better market in London than in Edinburgh or Glasgow. The houses of almost all the farmers whose rental exceeds L. 50 are substantial buildings, affording comfortable residences for their families. The farmers are an intelligent, respectable class of men; sober in their habits and industrious in their calling. A bankruptcy among them is of very rare occurrence, and when it does take place it may be ascribed to some untoward circumstances over which the bankrupt had probably very little control.

Population.—From the annexed table it will be seen that between the years 1801 and 1811, there was an increase of population of 15 per cent. and this is easily explained. The scarcity of 1799 and 1800 made the farmers bring more land into tillage than had been under the plough before; more men were employed, and as high wages were given, they were enabled to marry and bring up families. This impulse ceased during the next ten years, and hence there was an increase of only one per cent. The increase of five per cent. in the last ten years was owing to the influx of strangers to make some new lines of roads.

From several of the preceding accounts it appears that there has been a considerable falling off in the population of certain parishes, and a general impression prevails that the county is not nearly so populous as it was some centuries ago. By writers on political economy the plausible question is asked, how was this alleged population supported, when agriculture was so imperfectly understood and practised? One very important consideration seems to have been forgotten when they maintain, that the population bears a proportion to the produce of the land, and it is this,—in

grass has been made in widening the bridge across the Tweed from 8, or rather 7½, feet to 22 feet. According to contract, the work will be completed in October next, at the expense of upwards of L. 1000.

former times the produce was *consumed* on the land, now the greater part is *exported*. Tweeddale at present contains about 102,000 sheep, a very small number of which is consumed in the county or even in Scotland; almost the whole of the annual produce, such as lambs, *cast ewes* and wethers being sent to the south of England: whereas formerly neither sheep nor cattle ever crossed the English border; unless when a few were *lifted* in a marauding foray.

It has been said, "we have nothing of the pastorico-poetical *mania*, which would lead to the erection of cottages for idlers, for whose labour there is no demand, for the mere pleasure of exciting poetic ideas." * It were much to be wished that this mania prevailed a little, not for the sake of poetry, but of humanity. Cottages, on the whole, are the nurseries of a sober industrious race of people; and it is surely only reasonable and consistent with humanity that the labourer should be as near as possible to the scene of his daily toil, instead of being obliged to walk several miles before he can begin his day's work, and after bearing the toil and heat of the day to return the same distance in the evening. The hardship is still greater, if he be obliged to go to a remote part of the county, when he must leave his wife and family in some confined lane in the Burgh town, and, carrying his week's provision with him, must take such accommodation as he can find. The bad effects of this cruel system of not affording the day labourer a cottage in the parish where he earns his subsistence, is severely felt in the county town, in which, as his domicile, he claims his parish settlement.

Peculiarities of the People.—The inhabitants of this county are not distinguished from their neighbours by any peculiarity, if we except their almost total want of a taste for music. A stranger would be inclined to suppose that a pastoral district must be the land of music and song, and yet this is not the case. Pennecuik says "musick is so great a stranger to their temper that you shall hardly light upon one amongst six that can distinguish one tune from another;" and the editor of Pennecuik, who wrote a hundred years afterwards, says "in confirmation of this general want, it has been remarked, that from a band of Tweeddale shearers a song is scarcely ever to be heard; that a ploughman seldom enlivens his horses by whistling a tune; and that, although the scenery is so purely pastoral, the sound of a pipe, or flute, or cow-horn, or stock in horn, or even of a Jew's harp, is a rare occurrence in travelling through it."

* Agricultural Survey of Tweeddale, p. 47.

Character of the People.—Pennecuik has also said when speaking of the inhabitants, “pity it is to see a clear complexion and lovely countenance appear with so much disadvantage through the foul disguise of smoke and dirt.” So far from this being the case now, they are distinguished by neatness and cleanliness both in their houses and persons. They may also be considered a well-fed and well-clad people. They have not, indeed, the high wages which in a prosperous state of commerce are earned in manufactures, but we nowhere see the squalid wretchedness and abject poverty which are found in manufacturing districts. With the exception of a few individuals in the burgh, and in perhaps one of the villages, no man would appear in public on the Sabbath in his every-day clothes. Throughout the whole county there is a very becoming regard to decency in dress on solemn occasions; some may call it extravagance, but no one who has carefully studied the character of the working-classes, and can feel an interest in their respectability and outward deportment, will ever censure this part of their expenditure. It will generally be found that the best clad, particularly among the young men, are the most sober and industrious, and least given to extravagance in any shape. I make these observations with the greater confidence, as my own parish contains considerably more than the fourth part of the population of the whole county; and when I see men who are earning their subsistence by the labour of six days of the week appearing on the seventh clad in good broad cloth, so far from blaming them I consider them entitled to commendation.

But there are higher qualities to which most of my brethren have borne testimony. The people may be considered a religious people, who are regular in attending Divine ordinances, and, with some exceptions, act up to their profession. Liberalism and infidelity have as yet made very little progress among us, and if seditious emissaries from other places do not come to poison the minds, and sap the better principles of the people, every one who wishes their happiness both in this world and the world to come, will rejoice to see them continue in the same course of life which they now lead.

Since the last Statistical Account was drawn up, the inhabitants, like their fellow countrymen, have shared in the prosperity and in the reverses of the country; have rejoiced in the former, and been submissive and resigned in the latter. To suggest any improvements by which they would be greatly benefited, I should consider

presumptuous; as an intelligent race of people, who fully understand their own interests, they might say *laissez nous faire*, when any wild and visionary schemes are proposed to innovate on their accustomed occupations and their peaceful habits.

The writer of these observations has drawn up the following tables, which contain chiefly a summary of the foregoing accounts, and holds himself responsible for their accuracy,—premising, 1st, That where Scots acres are given in the text, they have here been converted into imperial. 2d, That in stating the amount of raw produce, when the quantity of any article has been given, but not the value in money, a calculation has been made according to the market prices. 3d, That such particulars stated in the tables as are not found in text have been ascertained from the writers of the respective Accounts.

TABLE I.

| PARISHES. | IMPERIAL ACRES. | | | | Annual value of raw produce. | Valued rept Scots money. | Number of sheep. |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Cultivated, or occasionally cultivated. | Never cultivated. | Capable of being cultivated. | Under wood. | | | |
| Peebles, | 3000 | 13710 | 60 | 1500 | L.20997* | L.5136 | 8000 |
| Innerleithen, | 2400 | 25700 | 1500 | 530 | 14653 | 5537 | 16040 |
| Traquair, | 3000 | 14000 | | 600 | 11250 | 5132 | 6900 |
| Tweedsmuir, | 375 | 41350 | | 31 | 3231† | 3962 | 16000 |
| Drummelzier, | 720 | 13200‡ | | 411 | 4414 | 3133 | 6600 |
| Broughton, | | | | | | | |
| Kilbucho, and } Glenholm, | 5000 | 14000 | 1100 | 250 | 21231 | 5407 | 6000 |
| Skirling, | 2590 | 717 | 405 | 34 | 5614 | 1510 | very few |
| Manner, | 1630 | 14800 | 200 | 400 | 7422 | 3301 | 7400 |
| Stobo, | 1255 | 10000 | 711 | 587 | 5948 | 2874 | 5000 |
| Kirkurd, | 2206 | 2207 | 1620 | 600 | 5126 | 1108 | 2000 |
| Newlands, | 3341 | 7659 | | 337 | 13890 | 4239 | 4000 |
| Eddlestone, | 4370 | 15630 | 1190 | 1050 | 13693 | 3928 | 5480 |
| Linton, | 4000 | 19500 | 1500 | 400 | 14000 | 3616 | 9640 |
| Lyne, and } Megget, | 875 | 13750 | 63 | 25 | 6542 | 3146 | 9000 |

* A mistake has been made at p. 15. The sheep in the account of the parish of Peebles are all of the Cheviot breed, and not partly of the black-faced kind, as I there stated. The following should have been the return :

357 stone of smeared white-faced wool, at 22s. per stone, L. 392 0 0

687½ stone of unsmeared do. at 32s. per stone, - 1100 0 0

L. 1492 0 0

As the annual value of sheep and wool is given, the *grazing*, amounting to L. 2000, ought not to have been inserted. It is now deducted from the amount of raw produce in the above column.

† In this sum, L. 2400, are given as the price of wool, but there is no return for sheep or lambs sold. The number of sheep in Tweedsmuir is nearly the same as in Innerleithen; and the amount of the raw produce for them in that parish is L. 6215.

‡ This number is not given in the text; but, as two acres are there allowed for one sheep, the above may be considered as the number of uncultivated acres. The same applies to Manner.

TABLE II.

| PARISHES. | TAXATION. | | POPULATION IN THE YEARS | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Income in 1815. | Cess, &c. 1832-3 | 1801. | 1811. | 1821. | 1831. |
| Peebles, - | L.6856 | L.126 19 8 | 2088 | 2485 | 2701 | 2750 |
| Burgh of do. | 2399 | 249 18 4 | | | | |
| Innerleithen, | 6022 | 127 15 6 | 542 | 635 | 662 | 746 |
| Traquair, | 5646 | 218 17 8 | 613 | 621 | 643 | 643 |
| Tweedsmuir, | 3840 | 34 4 6 | 277 | 254 | 265 | 268 |
| Drummelzier, | 4668 | 26 2 6 | 278 | 292 | 299 | 228 |
| Broughton, | 1599 | 16 4 6 | 214 | 231 | 260 | 299 |
| Kilbucho, and | 2040 | 43 8 3 | 242 | 322 | 328 | 353 |
| Glenholm, } | 2063 | 53 6 0 | 242 | 213 | 239 | 259 |
| Skirling, | 2199 | 9 15 6 | 308 | 310 | 345 | 358 |
| Manner, - | 3403 | 62 8 8 | 308 | 302 | 324 | 254 |
| Stobo, - | 2557 | 68 11 11 | 338 | 422 | 413 | 440 |
| Kirkurd, - | 1999 | 60 17 5 | 327 | 387 | 352 | 318 |
| Newlands, | 5399 | 172 8 0 | 950 | 1163 | 1041 | 1078 |
| Eddlestone, | 5645 | 133 6 4 | 677 | 918 | 810 | 836 |
| Linton, - | 5649 | 99 0 4 | 1064 | 1186 | 1194 | 1577 |
| Lyne, and Megget | 2244 | 17 17 9 | 167 | 194 | 176 | 156 |
| . | L.64182 | 1521 1 1 | 8735 | 9935 | 10046 | 10600 |

The amount of cess is - L. 1521 1 1
 Add compounded taxes, - 270 0 0
 Game licenses, - 119 0 0
 ————— L. 1910 1 1

N. B.—The above table is taken, so far as relates to the population and income, from the valuable work printed lately by order of the House of Commons. The return for the cess, &c. was obligingly furnished by the Collector for Peebles-shire, who is also Sheriff-clerk.

TABLE III.

Commitments to the County Gaol in the years 1832 and 1833.

| 1832. No. com. | By whom committed. | Crimes charged. | Punishment, or how disposed of. |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Contempt of Sher-sub. order. | Three weeks imprisonment. |
| 1. | Do. | Suspected of theft. | |
| 1. | Do. | Robbery or theft. | Tried at Jedburgh. 7 yrs. transport. |
| 3. | Do. | Stealing fences. | Ten days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Magistrate. | Contemptuous behaviour. | Ten days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Do. | Stealing fruit. | Dismissed the town. |
| 2. | Sheriff-sub. | Assault. | Fine L. 5 each, or sixty days imp. |
| 3. | Justices. | Stealing a pair of boots. | Not proven. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Disorderly behaviour. | To keep the peace six months. |
| 1. | Magistrate. | Do. | Dismissed the town. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Assault. | Tried at Jedburgh. 6 months imp. |
| 1. | Do. | Theft. | Thirty days imprisonment. |
| 2. | Magistrate. | Rioting. | Fine 15s. each. |
| 2. | Do. | Do. | Thirty days imprisonment each. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Vending forged notes. | Admitted to bail. |
| 1833. | | | |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Child murder. | Tried at Jedburgh. 9 months imp. |
| 1. | Do. | Debt. | |
| 1. | Do. | Assault. | Forty days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Do. | Debt. | |
| 1. | Do. | Meditatio fugæ. | |
| 2. | Do. | Stealing nails. | Sixty days imprisonment. |

| | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Stealing nails. | Not proven. |
| 1. | Do. | Debt. | |
| 1. | Magistrate. | Disorderly behaviour. | Two days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Theft. | Thirty days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Do. | Cutting down young trees. | Twenty days imprisonment. |
| 3. | Do. | Stealing clothes. | Four days imprisonment each. |
| 1. | Magistrate. | Breaking down young trees. | Fine 3s. and 2 days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Justices. | Poaching. | Fine L. 3, 3s. or two months imp. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Assault. | Fine L. 1, 10s. and L. 1, 18s. expen. |
| 1. | Do. | Child murder. | No proof. |
| 1. | Magistrate. | Contempt of court. | Two days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Child murder. | Admitted to bail. |
| 1. | Justices. | Poaching. | Fine L. 3, 3s. |
| 1. | Sheriff-sub. | Theft. | Forty days imprisonment. |
| 1. | Do. | Do. | Not proven. |

A fuller detail might have been given of the commitments to prison, but on referring to the gaoler's book, I found so much uniformity, that a return for two years appeared quite sufficient. The commitments of vagrants for one night have been omitted, as they are frequently lodged in prison rather from humanity than from any desire to punish them. The more aggravated crimes are little known, and there has been only one execution for very many years, and I am not aware that the criminal was a native of Tweeddale. To the credit of the inhabitants of the four pastoral and agricultural counties of Peebles, Selkirk, Berwick, and Roxburgh, which form the southern circuit, it may be stated that no circuit furnishes a smaller criminal calendar.

TABLE IV.—*Ecclesiastical Estate.*

| | Stipend. | | Glebe. | | Families attending Es- tab. church. | Communi- cants. | Dissenters. | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Chalders oat-meal & barley. | Money | Acres. | Value. | | | Families. | Individuals. |
| Peebles, - | 17½ | 40 | 6½ | L. 24 | 232 | 674 | | 681† |
| Innerleithen, - | 15 | 0 | 12 | 20 | | 264 | few | few |
| Traquair, - | 17 | 0 | 12 | 20 | 81 | 200 | 22 | 127‡ |
| Tweedmuir, - | 11 | 60 | 11½ | 15 | 49 | 120 | | 2 |
| Drummelzier, - | 11½ | 0§ | 12½ | 10 | 42 | 100 | | 0 |
| Broughton, - | 14½ | 0 | 21 | 42 | 124 | 300 | 4 | 20 |
| Glenholm, - | 0 | 0 | 6 | 18 | | | | 0 |
| Kilbucho, - | 0 | 0 | | 6 | | | | 0 |
| Skirling, - | 14 | 0 | 24 | 72 | 53 | 160 | 11 | 44 |
| Manner, - | 3 | 113 | 30 | 37 | 30 | 65 | | 38 |
| Stobo, - | 0¶ | 150 | 21 | 31 | 76 | 154 | 9 | 34** |
| Kirkurd, - | 0†† | 150 | 19 | 30 | 50 | 160 | 7 | 27‡‡ |
| Newlands, - | 15 | 0 | 14 | | 42 | 250 | 20 | |
| Eddlestone, - | 10§ | 96 | 28 | 30 | | 212 | | 100 |
| Linton, - | 15 | 0 | 14 | 20 | | | | 174 |
| Lyne & Megget, - | 0 | 149 | 18½ | 25 | 18 | 50 | 8 | |

* In equal quantities, calculated at highest fair prices.

† 5 Roman Catholics, and 7 Episcopalians. ‡ And 30 Roman Catholics.

§ 10 bolls of oat-meal are allowed to the ministers of Drummelzier and Stobo as the rent of the glebe of a suppressed parish.

|| And 2 Rom. Catholics, 7 Episcop. ¶ Of this L. 12, 18s. are paid by Exchequer.

** Allow 4 individ. to a family, the number of Dissent. families in Stobo will be 9.

†† Of this sum L. 80 are also paid by the Exchequer.

‡‡ Allow 4 individ. to a family, the No. of dissent. families in Kirkurd will be 7.

TABLE V.—*Education—Poor.*

| No. of Schools | Average No. of scholars attending. | Parochial schoolmaster's emoluments. | | Poor. | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | Salary. | Amount of fees. | Paupers. | Parochial expenditure | Collections at church. | Voluntary contribution | Assessment | Money at interest. | Amount of interest. | Different sources. |
| Peebles, . . . 8 | 491 | L. 38 | L. 35* | 48 | L. 272 0 | L. 62 0 | L. 180 | | L. 700 | L. 25 0 | L. 10 |
| Innerleithen, 1 | 100 | 34 | 40 | 13 | 101 0 | 21 0 | | 80 | | | |
| Traquair, . . 1 | 73 | 34 | 25 | 18 | 109 0 | 18 0 | 6 | 77 | | 8 0 | |
| Tweedsmuir, 1 | 83 | 32 | 12 | 1 | | 10 0 | | | | | |
| Drummelzier, 1 | 28 | 32 | 10 | 1 | 17 0 | 10 0 | | | | | 5 |
| Broughton, } 1 | 60 | 32 | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| Glenholm, } 1 | 30 | 32 | 12 | 3 | 42 0 | 24 0 | 8 | | 186 | 2 15 | 5 |
| Kilbucko, } 1 | 50 | 32 | 15 | | | | | | | | |
| Skirling, . . 1 | 60 | 34 | 26 | 5 | 20 0 | 11 0 | | | | | |
| Manner, . . 1 | 30 | 30 | 14 | 4 | 40 0 | 8 0 | 3 | | 184 | 3 13 | |
| Stobo, . . . 1 | 45 | 32 | 11 | 10 | 65 0 | 12 0 | | | 545 | 21 0 | |
| Kirkurd, . . 1 | 40 | 34 | 12 | 6 | 40 0 | 14 0 | | | | | |
| Newlands, . . 2 | 170 | 34 | 13 | 32† | 119 0 | 20 0 | | 90 | | | |
| Eddlestone, . 1 | 70 | 34 | 42 | 15 | 64 0 | 22 0 | | 33 | | 9 0 | |
| Linton, . . . 1 | 100 | 34 | 35 | 25† | 118 0 | 24 0 | 60 | | 229 | | |
| Lyne and } 1 | 27 | 25 | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| Megget, } 1 | † | 7 | | none | 2 5s. | 2 6s. | | | | | |

* These are the emoluments only of the teacher of the English school; the grammar school-master's are not here noticed.

† These two numbers include occasional as well as regular paupers.

‡ No returns.

N. B.—Under the head of parochial expenditure is included not only the support of the poor, but also the salaries of the session, presbytery, and synod clerks,—the beadle, and frequently the precentor. When the expenditure seems to exceed the annual income, it may be necessary to mention that the deficiency is made up, as in the parishes of Stobo, Kirkurd, and some others, by the liberality of the principal heritors, though no formal record is entered. In the parish of Manner, the deficiency is made up by drawing from the kirk-session funds lodged in the bank,—a very questionable mode of supporting the poor.

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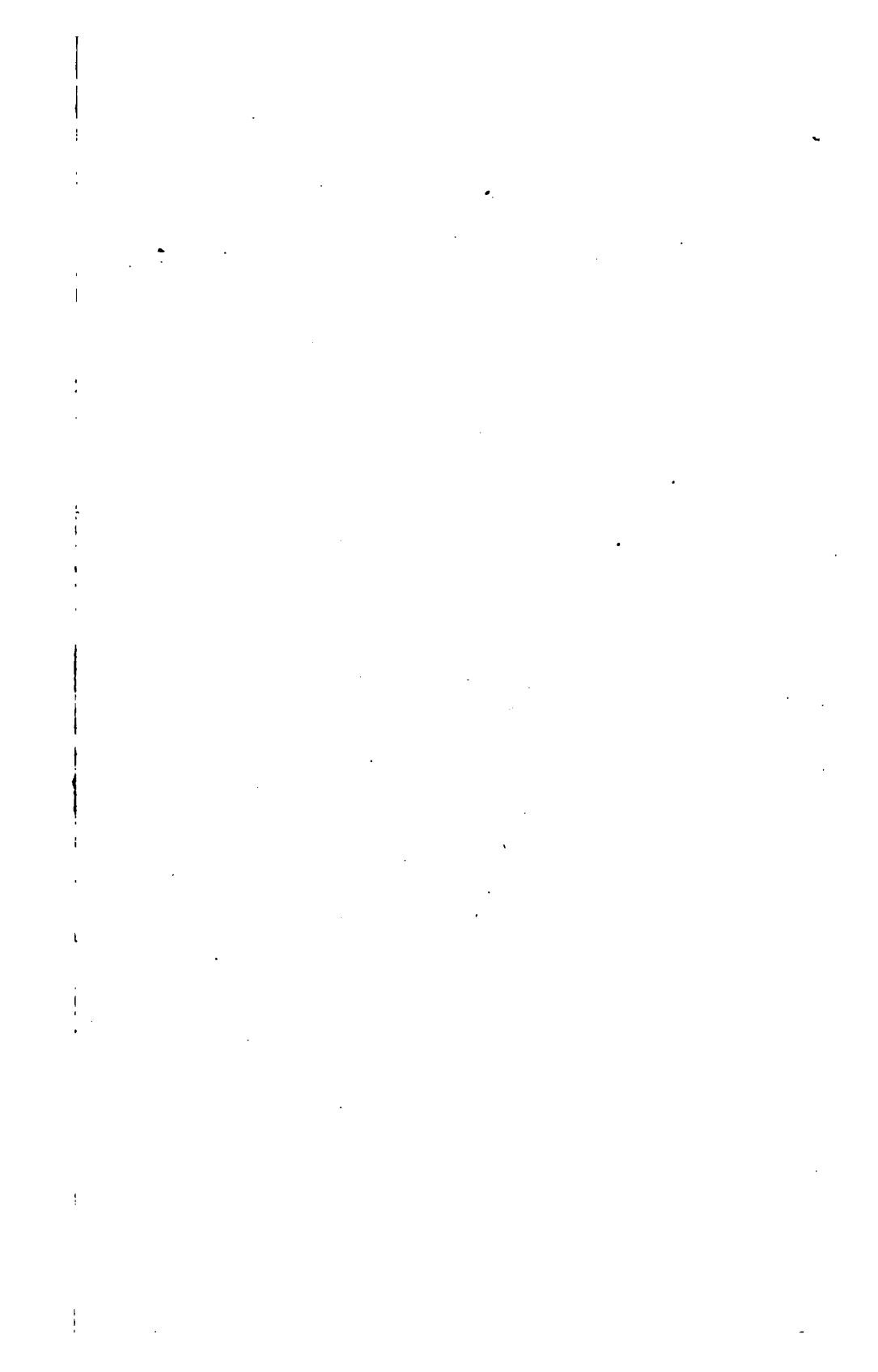
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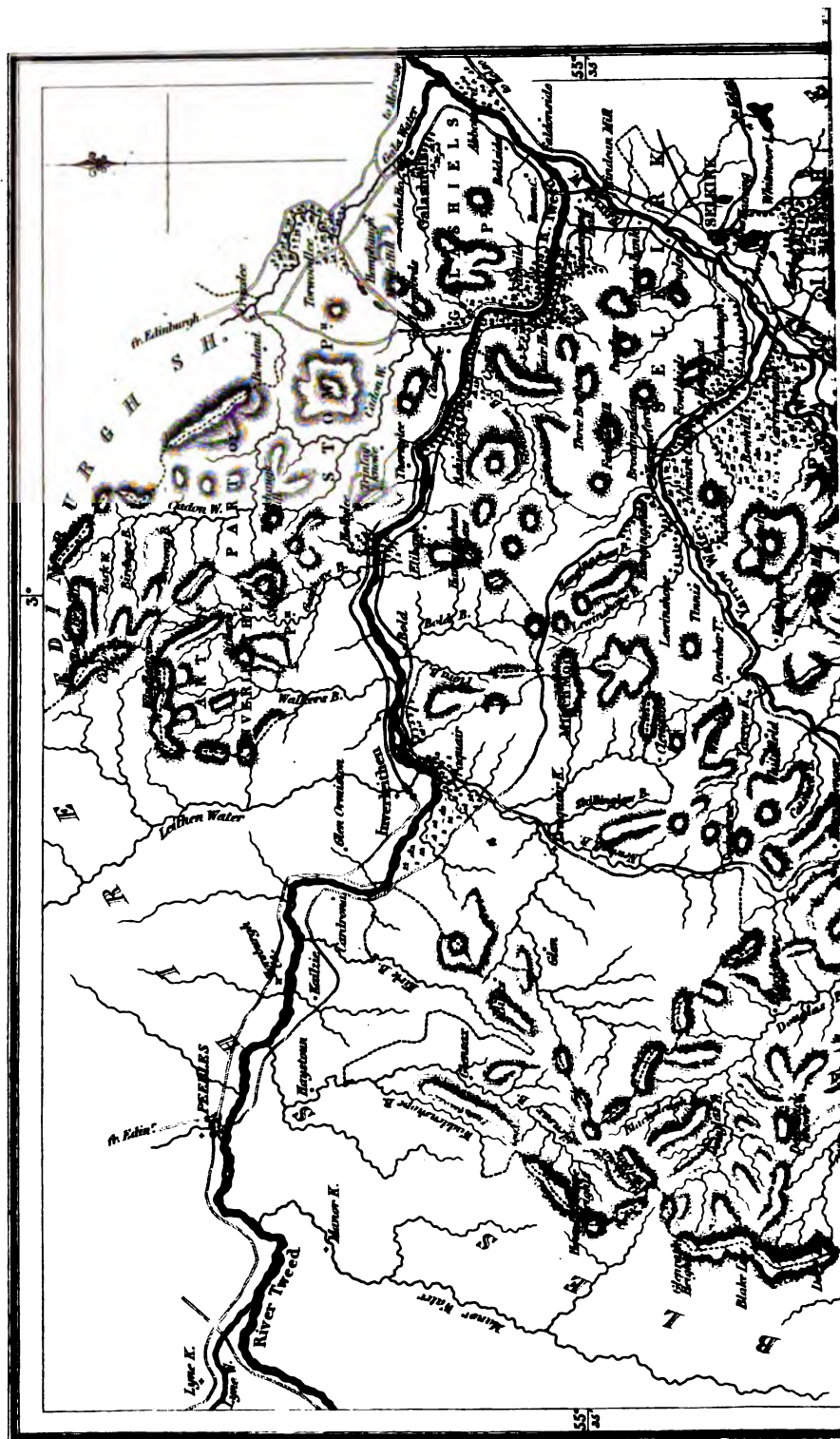
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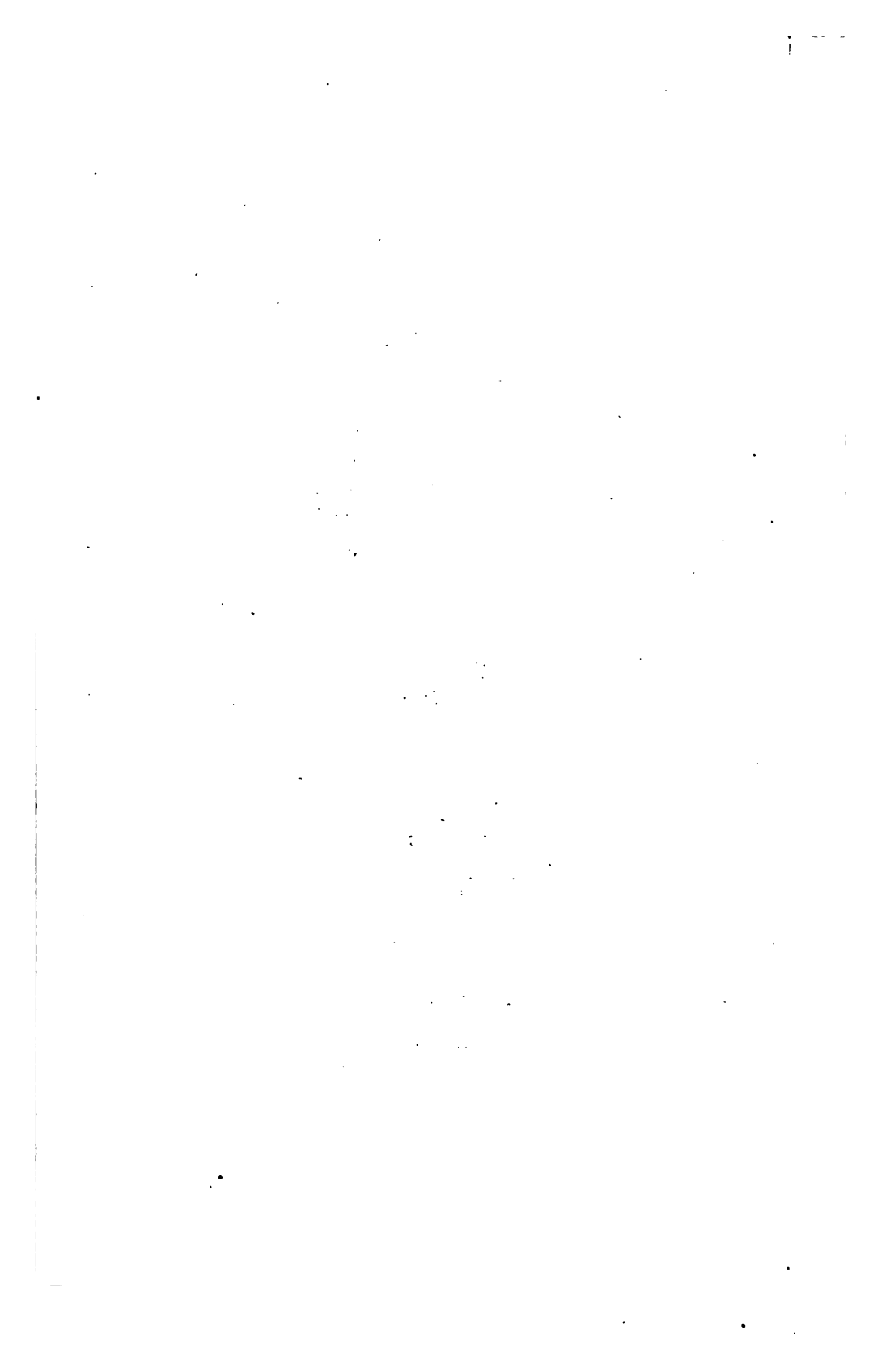
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PARISH OF SELKIRK.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE name Selkirk, according to Sir James Dalrymple, is derived from two Celtic words, *schelch* and *grech*, signifying the kirk in *the wood or forest*. This derivation receives considerable support from the fact, that this part of the country was formerly covered with wood, and formed a royal chase; and it has been adopted in the former Statistical Account of this parish. It is elsewhere asserted that the name is written in old charters *Seleschirche*, * *Selechyre*, or *Selchire*, meaning the *great or good church*.

From the great irregularities, and the capricious windings of its boundaries, in which no regard is paid to the natural features of the country, it is impossible to convey in words any idea of the figure of this parish. It is not even all contiguous, for there are two portions of it in the shire of Roxburgh,—the one on the north, and the other on the south, of the neighbouring parish of Ashkirk. The extent of the principal division, from Cadonlee on the north, to the source of Wollburn on the south, is about seven miles and a-half; and from Easter Kershope on the west, to Whitmoor Loch on the east, about eight miles. Including the two detached parts, and deducting considerably for numerous indentations, the area may be computed in round numbers to be about ten square miles. The principal division is bounded on the north by the parishes of Gala-shiels and Stow, or rather by the river Tweed, which separates it from them; on the south, by those of Yarrow and Ashkirk; on the east, by those of Galashiels, Lilliesleaf, and Ashkirk; and on the west, by that of Yarrow.

* In a charter of William the Lion it is written *Seleschirke*.—*Registrum Monasterii de Passelet*, p. 39. Printed by the Earl of Glasgow for the Maitland Club.—T.

Topographical appearance, Climate, &c.—The parish is completely of a hilly character; but, from being all very elevated, the different peaks have not that marked appearance they otherwise would have. The most remarkable lie between the Ettrick and Tweed. Of these the Three Brethren Cairn is 1978 feet, and the Peat Law 1964, above the level of the sea. The mean temperature of the atmosphere, as given in the former account, is 43° of Fahrenheit; the medium height of the barometer 29 $\frac{2}{10}$; and the mean quantity of rain 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The rivers are the Ettrick, Yarrow, and Tweed. Their course through the parish is eastward. They are of the most romantic character, and their banks beautifully wooded.

Selkirk parish presents few features worthy the attention of the geologist. The rocks belong to the transition series, and are chiefly greywacke, greywacke-slate, clay-slate, &c. which are disposed in strata in general pretty highly inclined, and ranging from N. W. to N. E. None of the more rare or useful minerals are to be met with.* The soil is light and dry, and in consequence the crops are early. The whole parish, and all the surrounding district, as already noticed, was in early times one vast forest, of which the only traces now left are a few bare and stunted trees, overhanging the Ettrick and Yarrow; and for a long time there was scarcely the semblance of a wood to be met with. But of late, proprietors more alive to their true interests, have manifested considerable care in planting those parts of their estates unfit for pasture or agriculture; and there are now, particularly about the Haining and Bowhill, large forests, which in a few years must prove very productive, and even at present furnish a quantity of annual thinnings. The trees best adapted to the soil seem to be the common pine, birch, and oak. There is no natural wood; but it is affirmed, that, were the hills left to the free and unfettered operations of nature, forests of spontaneous growth would immediately spring up and cover the face of the country.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—The parish, from its contiguity to the borders of the kingdom, was frequently the scene of predatory incursions, and its inhabitants furnished their quota in many of the most celebrated wars of the Scottish kings. So early as the twelfth century, we find

* For other particulars relative to the Natural History of this district, see the Account of Yarrow, p. 80, *et seq.*

it mentioned in history ; for King David the First founded, close to the present town, a monastery, which was shortly after removed to Kelso,—a spot more congenial to the habits and dispositions of the inmates of such an establishment. In 1309, Edward the Second of England mentions its castle as one of the strongholds of Scotland in the possession of his adherents. But the event dwelt on with the greatest complacency by the people of Selkirk is the battle of Flodden-Field. To this fatal encounter, James the Fourth was accompanied by a hundred of the choicest citizens of Selkirk ; and such was their courage and resolution, that out of that number not more than four or five returned ; and these bore with them a flag said to have been taken from the English, which is still in existence, and in possession of the Incorporation of Weavers, by one of whose body it had been carried away. In revenge for their gallant conduct, the English burnt the town to the ground;* but to compensate for that loss, a grant of 1000 acres of adjoining lands was made by the Crown to the burghers and their posterity for ever. After this we meet with nothing of much historical importance until the period of the great civil wars, during which the Marquis of Montrose was defeated by the Covenanters under General Leslie, at Philiphaugh, a farm about a mile to the north of the town.

Antiquities.—Two miles to the west of the farm above-named, and overhanging the Yarrow, immediately before its junction with the Ettrick, are still to be seen the remains of an entrenchment thrown up by Montrose ; and in the town stands the house where he spent the night previous to the engagement. Close to Newark, on the Yarrow, is a field called the Slain Man's Lee, where the Covenanters, a day or two after, are said to have put to death many of their prisoners. Some bones are yet occasionally dug up on the spot. Since that period, Selkirk has been undistinguished by any occurrences claiming to be remembered in a compilation like the present. The ruins of only two castles, those of Newark and Oakwood, now exist. The former of these, which belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch, was once the residence of Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch and Monmouth, after the death of her husband, who was beheaded for insurrection in the reign of James the Second ; and it is supposed to be the scene where the Lay of the Last Minstrel was sung. Oakwood is in possession of the Scotts of Harden, and was

* Surry did not advance, but dismissed his army after the battle. The burning of Selkirk must have been on some subsequent occasion.—T.

famous of old as being tenanted by the wizard Michael Scott, many traditions of whom are here still current.

Some coins, apparently Roman, were found three or four years ago, but from their decay it was impossible to make out their date or inscription; and it is noticed in the former report that some skulls of the Urus, or wild ox, and a Roman spear, were dug up in a moss near Selkirk.

Eminent Men.—The chief characters of eminence connected with this parish have been, *1st*, Andrew Pringle, Lord Alemoor, a Lord of Session during the last century, equally remarkable for his learning and eloquence. *2d*, Mungo Park, the African traveller, born at Fowlshiels, where one of his brothers still resides. And *lastly*, the great Sir Walter Scott, Baronet, who was long Sheriff of the County.

The chief *Landholders* are the Duke of Buccleuch; Robert Pringle of Clifton; Charles Scott of Sunderlandhall; Hugh Scott of Harden; Alexander Pringle of Whytbank; John Boyd of Broadmeadows; John Dunlop of Whitmoorhall; Maconochie of Greenhead; and the town of Selkirk.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers, namely, those of births and marriages, are kept with great regularity by the session-clerk. They consist of several folio volumes, the earliest date of which is 1641. Unluckily, however, the register of births is not so complete as could be wished, from the circumstance that people belonging to the Secession church, who are here pretty numerous, have a seeming reluctance to enter the births of their children, and, consequently, the enrolments are mostly made by parents in union with the establishment. It may be here noticed, that there is also a register of deaths, not kept by the session-clerk, but by an individual merely for his own amusement. It commences in 1742, and has been continued down to the present time.

Modern Buildings.—There is one church belonging to the Establishment, and one Secession meeting-house. At one time there were two Secession meeting-houses, but when the dissenting synods united, one was found to be sufficient, and the other has been converted into a dwelling-house. There is also a town hall, with an elegant spire 110 feet in height; and close to the town there have just been rebuilt very excellent mills for grinding wheat, barley, and other grain. An inkle manufactory, which existed many years, was discontinued, in consequence of the late great depression of trade. There are some stocking-loom, and a fulling mill, which employ only a very

few hands. A tannage, on a small scale, stands about a mile east of the town. The principal mansion-houses are those of Haining, Bowhill, Sunderlandhall, and Broadmeadows.

III.—POPULATION.

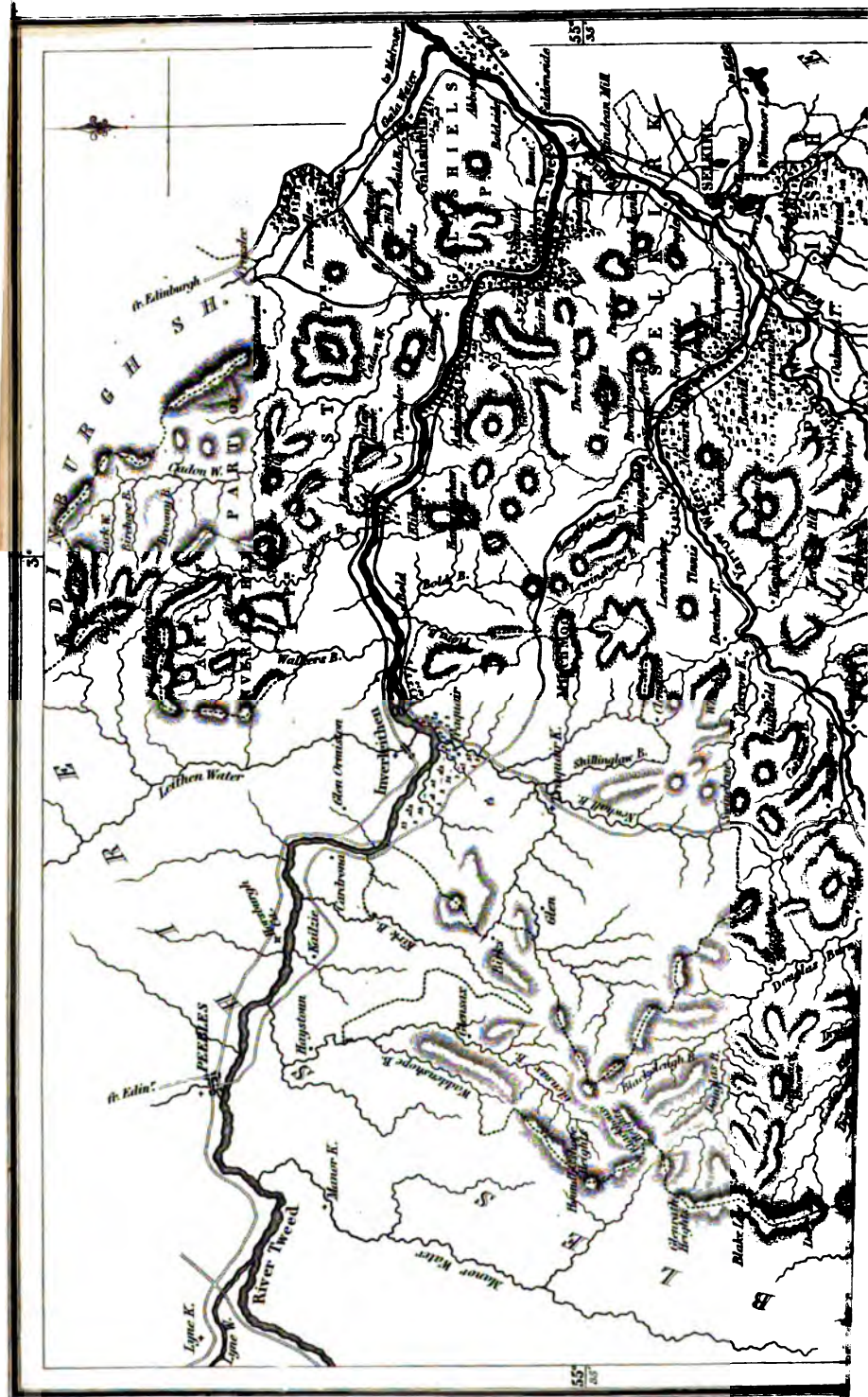
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|--|------|
| The number of inhabitants in the early part of last century, | 1700 |
| In 1755, according to Dr Webster, | 1793 |
| In 1811, | 2422 |
| In 1821, | 2696 |
| In 1831, | 2833 |

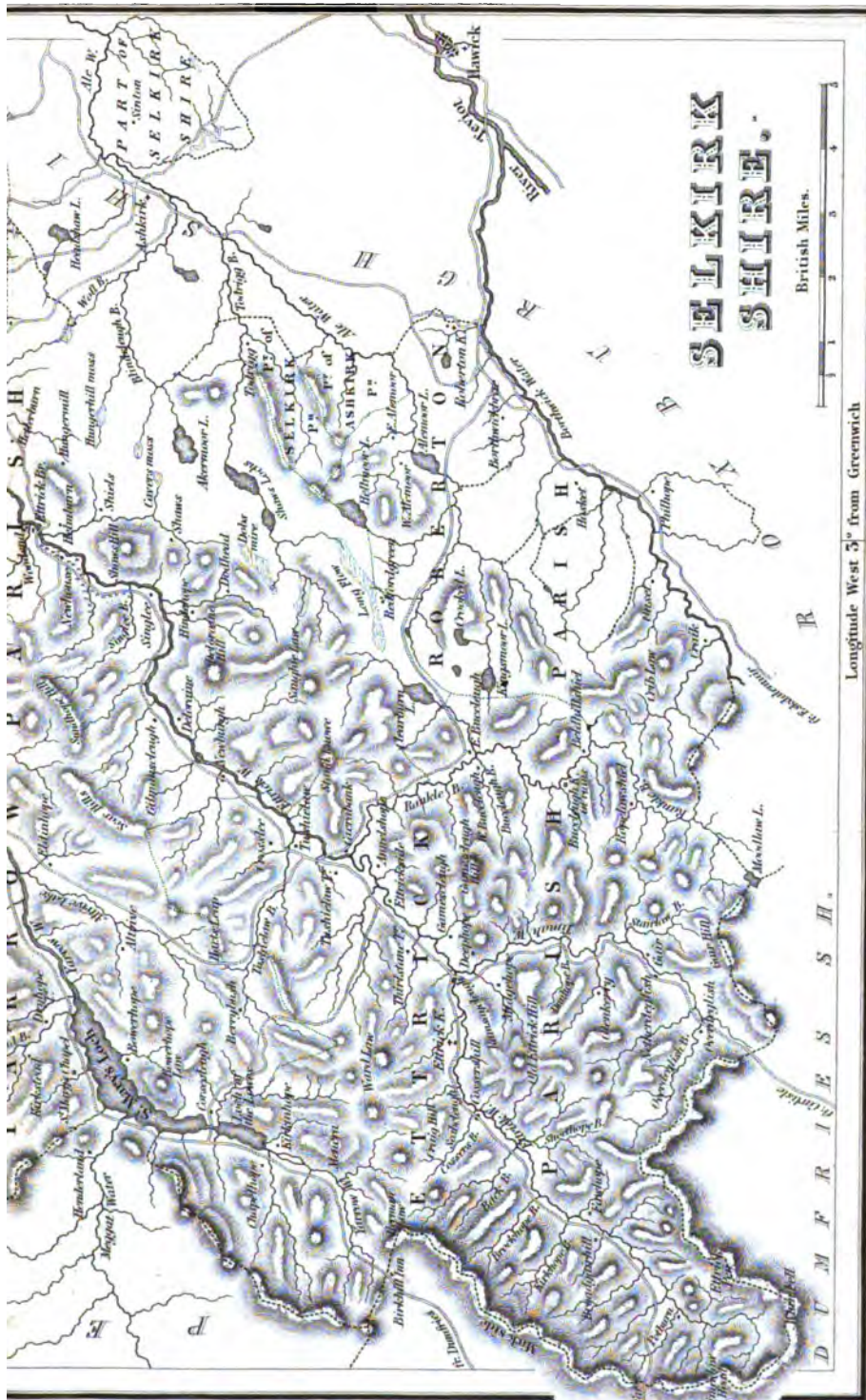
The number of families is 637 ; of individuals employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers, 186 ; in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, 280 ; of professional and other educated men, 50 ; of labourers not employed in agriculture, 77.

The increase of the population has been owing in the country mostly to the improved state of agriculture, and in the town to the few manufactories,—the opening of roads, and the greater quantity of employment afforded by the landed proprietors. In the burgh, the increase might have been yet greater, had not the restrictions on trade, and jealousy of the burghers, forced many young men with small capitals to places more open to enterprise. In 1755, three-fifths of the population resided in the town, and the remainder in the country. In the town the population at present is 1800, in the country 1033. The number of deaths for the last seven years is 51 ; of marriages for the same time, 22.

The number of proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is 15.

Habits and Character of the People.—The habits of the people are cleanly, their houses comfortable, and kept in good order ; while their dress, without manifesting any peculiarity, is much attended to. Strangers invariably remark the neat and decent appearance of the lower orders on Sundays. Their food is good and wholesome, the bread in the country being mostly made of pease or barley, and in the town from wheat ; and there are few families that have not butcher-meat almost every day to dinner : potatoes are in constant use. They are much addicted to the smoking of tobacco. They are, for the most part, well-informed, disposed to religion, sober, and respectful. Drinking of spirituous liquors, which was of late years very common, has in a considerable degree declined,—and the only crime prevalent is that of poaching, which is carried on in game to a great extent, and is but too often the forerunner of offences of a deeper dye. Numbers of idle young men band themselves toge-





gallon imperial, half meal, half barley; with an allowance of L. 10 for sacramental purposes. The average amount of stipend for the last ten years, converted to money, is L. 302, 2s. 2½d. per annum. The number of families attending the Established Church is 220. The average number of communicants 650.

There is no other place of worship in the parish, except the Secession meeting-house, which is in the town, and was built in 1759. It belongs to the Associate Synod. The stipend, with an allowance included for the rent of a dwelling-house, sacramental expences, &c. amounts to L. 150 per annum, and is raised solely from the seat rents. 670 sittings were let for the present year; and the number of families belonging to the congregation may be 335. From 15 to 20 poor people are accommodated with seats gratis.

There are two Societies in the parish connected with religion,—one Friendly, composed of females, and the other Missionary; both including indiscriminately members of the Establishment and Secession. They are poor. There is likewise a Temperance Society, not in a very flourishing condition.

Education.—The total number of schools is seven; one of which is parochial, one burgh, two others endowed, and three unendowed. There are also two Sunday evening schools, taught and superintended by the clergymen of both persuasions. In the grammar or parochial school, are taught, besides the ordinary branches, Latin, Greek, French, Italian, astronomy, mathematics, and drawing. This school has always borne a high character, and is now under the charge of a most able and accomplished master. Three of the other schools are taught by females, and afford the usual branches of female education. The salary of the grammar schoolmaster, including an allowance for house and garden, is L. 50 per annum, and he may receive L. 80 per annum of fees. The salary of the burgh schoolmaster is L. 32. One of the females has, since 1813, received L. 30 per annum from the town of Selkirk; and another at Newark L. 15, with house, coals, &c. since 1810, from the Duke of Buccleuch. Education is very cheap. These schools seem fully adequate for the population, few of whom cannot read and write. As schools have increased, and particularly since the commencement of the Sunday schools, a great change for the better has taken place in the morals of the young.

Libraries.—There are in the parish two very good subscription libraries, and one parochial. The books are of the best description, and much read.

Savings Bank.—We have one savings bank, called “The Et-trick Forest Savings Bank.” The average amount invested in it for the last five years is L. 240, 4s. per annum; the average amount withdrawn, L. 263. The greater amount of the sums withdrawn is to be attributed to the great number of persons emigrating to America,—these of course leaving nothing behind them. The amount invested, however, for the present year, is greater by L. 48 than that withdrawn; and the whole amount of the fund on hand at 5th August 1833 was L. 1673.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Paupers are divided into two classes,—those receiving aid from the town, and those from the parish. The number of poor on the parish is 15; and 2s. per week is the average allowance to each. The number on the town is 45. The average sum paid by the town for the last three years is L. 191, 1s. 5d. which is raised by assessment. The church collections amount to L. 25 a-year. The Duke of Buccleuch gives annually L. 20 to purchase coals; and 200 merks were mortified many years ago by William Ogilvie of Hartwoodmyres, of which the kirk-session are the managers.

Prisons.—In the prison of Selkirk, during the last year, at different periods, seven individuals have been confined. It is not well secured, as two prisoners have this season escaped; and others have been frequently in the practice of coming out in the evening, and returning again before the jailor’s visit in the morning. But this is now in the course of being remedied.

Fairs, Inns, &c.—Five fairs are held during the year. One of these, on the 31st of July, was established thirteen years ago for the sale of lambs, but has not succeeded well. The rest are for the transaction of business of all sorts. There are fifteen inns. Happily, however, they have not been of late much encouraged.

Fuel.—In the western parts of the parish the principal fuel is peats; but in the town and around it, coals brought from the mines of Mid-Lothian are chiefly used. The average price per cwt. is about 1s. or 1s. 1d.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the above pages were in the press, a reading-room has been opened in the town, in which a monthly magazine, three newspapers, and one of the cheap periodicals are received. It is supported by subscription; the regulations are good, and it is likely to prove of much service. The line of road between Selkirk and Gala-

shiels was opened at Whitsunday last, and forms one of the most beautiful drives in the south of Scotland. The general appearance of the parish has been much improved since the early account rendered of it; farms are better managed,—every acre of land, that can with profit be so treated, has been brought under cultivation,—stocks are more healthy and productive, and the comforts of farmers and tenants themselves have in like ratio increased. Education is more widely disseminated, and the people are in general more moral and industrious. At the same time, land-owners have been at pains to embellish their seats and enclosures, thereby assisting to beautify the general features of the country.

September 1833.

PARISH OF GALASHIELS.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. NATHANIEL PATERSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—*Gwala*, in the ancient British, signifies “a full stream.” The United Parish of Galashiels and Lindean, the former part in the county of Selkirk, and the latter in Roxburghshire, is of an irregular figure, the greatest length being nearly eight miles, and the average breadth three. It is beautified and rendered interesting by the well-wooded and classical streams of Tweed, Ettrick, and Gala, which severally unite, and form a large portion of its boundaries. The general aspect is hilly, with narrow and winding vales. The greatest height, that of Meigle, a hill overlooking the town, is 1480 feet, and the lowest plain, situated at the junction of Tweed and Gala, is 280 feet above the level of the sea.

Climate.—As to climate there is nothing remarkable, farther than may be inferred from the elevation. The hills are for the most part green and dry. Sheep-draining, as the mode of drying hill pastures by open furrows cut with the spade is termed, has been introduced, and is practised as far as needed, but not to any considerable extent; and it is rare that the storms of winter are such as to prevent the flocks from shifting for themselves. The easterly winds, owing to the obstruction of higher grounds, and the tortuous course of the vallies, lose much of their vicious humidity before reaching this place; and the inhabitants are but seldom tried by that delicate test of rheumatism, an easterly *haar*. There has not been a case of ague in the parish for the last ten years; and public worship has not once, in that time, been prevented by the severity of the weather. Many now living remember intermittent fever as a very common occurrence; but they remember also that wild ducks were frequently shot in many pools and marshes of the neighbourhood where wheat and clover now thrive. No mountains of the district

are so high, nor are the elevated tracts so cold, from sponginess of surface, as to attract from the atmosphere more than an ordinary share of moisture. The harvest is early; peaches and apricots ripen in the open air; and, upon the whole, the climate may be judged as favourable to longevity as any in Scotland.

Geology, &c.—Clay-slate, greywacke, and ironstone, are the principal rocks occurring in the parish; and no coal, lime, or freestone, has yet been found. Owing to the great distance from coal, viz. twenty-four miles, it is most desirable that that necessary mineral should make its appearance; and search, if search could produce it, would not have failed. But alas! on the last attempt which I witnessed, it was found that a sort of shale, not bituminous, had duped the sanguine excavators, one of whom on shewing the deceitful semblance said, “it is as black as a coal, as hard as a coal, and as heavy as a coal; in short, it is coal altogether, except that it will not burn.” Shell-marl abounds in Lindean on the south side of Tweed; and, what is very remarkable, there is no vestige of that manure to be found on the north side, over a large tract of country. It has been extensively used, to the great benefit of agriculture and of pasture lands, but now it is rarely driven farther than four or five miles; lime, though twenty miles distant, being preferred since the public roads became so highly improved.

The soil is of all characters, from the black mould to the ochrey clay. It is sandy, but fertile on the banks of the rivers. The rising grounds to the south of the Tweed have a considerable mixture of clay on a tilly bottom; those to the north are dry and gravelly, with an everlasting profusion of small stones. The black mould is scarce, being found only on small fields of table-land out of the reach of the rivers, and enriched at the expense of the sloping hills. Peat-moss is nowhere to be met with, except in small spots where water has been long stagnant; and its use for fuel, notwithstanding the great distance of coal, is almost entirely abandoned.

Hydrography.—As the rivers flow with considerable rapidity, and are rarely confined by rocky banks, much trouble and expense are occasioned by floods. The Tweed may be seen a quarter of a mile in breadth, rolling its mighty sea, which mountains seem inadequate to oppose; and the Gala less powerful, but more mischievous, would spare, if it were not carefully checked, neither corn-fields nor stone walls. The best remedy in use is a species of bulwark called *puts*.

These are masses of stones loosely piled in the interior, but finished on the surface after the manner of a pavement, and shaped like the fore half of a shoemaker's last, pointing up the stream, and forming with the bank an angle of 45° . This occasions a lodgement of gravel giving strength to the work, and thus obliges the river, in its wildest mood, to furnish protection to the land. The main thing is to guard the base with piles well driven, for if one stone be suffered to give way, the whole scheme is futile.

About fifty years ago, the town of Galashiels was liable to such inundations, that boats were occasionally brought from Boldside, two miles distant, to rescue the people from their houses. But of late, the channel of the river has been found a convenient quarry for the great increase of buildings, and the course of the stream has in consequence been so much lowered, that there is now no apprehension of danger from its assaults upon the streets. Yet though personal safety be secured, property is subject to no small damage by the presence of floods. Bulwarks reared at great expense are liable to be swept away; and mills, necessarily placed near to the water's edge, are often in jeopardy from the erosion of the gravelly stratum on which they are built. As soon as the torrent has made a breach in the bulwark the danger is imminent, and all hands are at work.

In the autumn of 1829 this place had its share in the terrors of the floods so destructive at the same period in Morayshire. A large new Factory was in peril; and a multitude of hands were employed in collecting and piling up stones, as a barrier against the inroads of the water. But at every interval of a few minutes, large masses of the bank were falling down; and the strong pile, losing its foundation, was but as chaff to the torrent—when a spectator of this toil and dismay suggested an expedient that was then, as it has since frequently been, successful, viz. that of cutting down trees, making them fast by the trunk with long ropes and stakes, and tumbling them with all their branches into the flood. The sight was grand: the scheme was novel: a hundred people might be employed in hauling along full-grown trees through the more quiescent waters to the main stream, being themselves half immersed in the element with which they were contending. The effect was immediate, and the progress of destruction was arrested. Spruce and Scotch firs of four to six inches in diameter are the most suitable. They are so arranged that the bushy part of one tree overlaps that of another, forming a sort of thatch, along which

the water smoothly glides, and presses it against the bank ; and thus the loose gravel, instead of being hurried away, is upheld by the force of the stream. This expedient is now uniformly adopted as soon as any encroachment is threatened ; and by the employment of a few trees that may be worth sixpence a-piece, and the labour of a few minutes, highly improved fields and costly embankments have been saved from incalculable damage. In this country of mountain and flood, circumstances must frequently, and in many places, be similar to those now described : and this will be deemed an apology for the above notice.

There are two lakes in this parish ; one of which may be a mile and a-half in circumference, deep, full of marl, and well-stocked with perch and pike. It is ornamented on one side with plantations by Sir Walter Scott ; but on the other it is lamentably bare, considering its high and exposed situation, as the name Cauldshiels implies. The other lake, covering about ten or twelve acres, was once partially drained in expectation of marl ; but as none was found, the drains have been suffered to close, and the marshy, reedy surface is again changed to a smooth sheet of water. It is peopled with eels, which always find their way into any pool, whether natural or artificial. This lake is not worthy of notice, were it not for the beauty it is capable of affording, and the great price at which such an ornament must be bought where nature does not supply it. Though low in its situation, and surrounded with soil highly favourable to the growth of timber, it is yet without a tree for a companion.

Zoology.—The rivers here abound in salmon, common trout sometimes found in Tweed of the extraordinary weight of 12 lbs., whitling or sea-trout, bull-trout, a coarser variety of the salmon tribe. A stray pike may be met with in the deep pools ; eels everywhere ; minnow,—important to anglers ; and the par, of dubious origin, (certainly never found except where salmon have access), is so abundant, that the least skilful anglers have seldom the mortification of coming home with an empty basket.

The new act for regulating the period of close time in Tweed promises to be advantageous, as its principle is accommodated to the natural history of the salmon. The river was formerly open so early as the 10th of January, when the fishes were slaughtered in great numbers by spearing with torch light ; and when they were so little recovered from the effects of spawning, that the fishermen of this place, having killed a hundred in one night,

would have been glad to get, for the whole lot, the average price of one shilling a head ;—a prodigious waste of a valuable article of food. The river is not open now till the 15th of February, when the condition of the salmon is generally improved. It is not easy to say at what time the varieties of this tribe come into the rivers, or when they return to the sea. In no month of the year is the river Tweed without some of them. They do not leave the sea only for the purpose of spawning, but to get rid of an insect with which they become infested in salt water. This insect quits its hold in the course of two days' exposure to the fresh stream; and hence, as salmon are sometimes taken in this place with the insect adhering to them, their rate of travelling cannot be less than twenty miles per day,—a rapidity that is surprising, considering the force of the current with which they have all the way to contend ; for this journey can only be performed when there is a considerable flood in the river.

Squirrels have appeared, but do not seem to have gained a residence ; which, for the sake of game and singing birds, is little desirable. The otter preys upon salmon and large trout in the rivers. The swan, the eagle, the raven, the starling, the butcher-bird, the ring dottrel, and Bohemian chatterer, are the more rare of the feathered tribe which occasionally make their appearance. It is worthy of remark that wood-pigeons, which have increased in number in proportion to the increase of plantation, prove destructive to the turnip crop; and that crows have lately learned to relieve the famine of winter by feeding on that root. The moor blackbird, too, has of late years become a most troublesome spoiler of the garden. It is nearly of the same size as the singing blackbird, but dingy and tuneless,—a daring thief that comes before the windows and carries off a plum nearly as large as itself, shewing by its chatter more of anger than fear when it is disturbed in the work of depredation. Currants, gooseberries, cherries, plums, and the finest wall-fruits, are its prey.

Finger-and-toe, a disease of the turnip root, and now spreading to an alarming degree, is in all probability to be ascribed to an insect ; but the subject, so far as I have learned, is not yet investigated. There is also a fly which preys upon the leaf of that crop to its great damage, but whose natural history has not yet been ascertained.* The carrot worm is so prevalent in this place that

* The insect alluded to is a species of the genus *Haltica*, Stephens,—perhaps the *H. nemorum*. A writer in the *Entomological Magazine* for July, has related some experi-

little success attends the cultivation of that excellent root. Neither trenching, nor lime, nor salt, nor soot, proves efficacious. The green fly is very destructive to peach trees; and mildew hurts the leaf of the Ribston, and that of several of the finer sorts of apples.

Botany.—Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), used as a dye, and teazles, or clothier's brush (*Dipsacus fullonum*), for raising the nap of cloth, have been cultivated here both in gardens and in the fields; but little is done in that way, as the climate in ordinary seasons is unfavourable. The latter plant occupies the ground for two years; and if it fails of abundant sunshine in autumn to harden and turn down the spiculæ of the seed-pod, which gives it the property of a combing instrument, the crop is in a great measure lost.

Almost all the varieties of fir and hard-wood thrive well. The soil is of various qualities; and planting is now so well understood that there is scarcely an instance of failure. In every case of recent plantation there is a mixture of fir and hard-wood; the latter consisting of ash, elm, oak, beech, sycamore, &c. and as thinning is regularly observed, the most thriving trees are left; and this experimental process proves infallible, as to the accommodation of trees to the soil. Want of depth is the cause why no very remarkable oaks appear; there are many fine elms, but the ash and the plane attain to the largest size, and of both very superb specimens are to be seen in the finely wooded park of Gala, and also in the estate of Fairmile.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish, &c.—In Pennant's Tour, printed in 1772, are many curious and interesting particulars relative to the antiquities and civil history of this parish. Surveys of all the estates, with plans and measurements, were taken from 1790 to 1800, and are now in the hands of the proprietors.

Galashiels was erected into a barony in 1599, according to the precept from Chancery bearing that date, and must have been

ments which he was induced to make for the purpose of ascertaining the source from whence this bane of the turnip crops arose, and his investigations led him to the conclusion, that the ova of the insect were deposited on the seed, and were attached to it when sown. This conclusion is in consonance with what is known of the unerring instinct of many tribes of insects, which leads them to deposit their ova where the young when hatched may find their appropriate food; and in the instance of the turnip crops, the same temperature and situation which promotes the germination of the seed, also calls into life the parasitic destroyer of the plant.—Vide Entomol. Mag. i. 364.

about that time a place of some note, as appears from the report by the Lords of Commission for the Plantation of Kirks, dated 1622. The report bears, "that there lived above 400 people in Galashiels; and so meikle the more as we (the ministers of the adjoining parishes) find ane house already there, well built, comely appparelled, and with small help, as is provided, may easily be made sufficient for the whole people in their most frequent assemblages." The kirk was accordingly transplanted from Lindean to Galashiels for this farther reason, as given in the report, that the old vicar's church of Lindean had been abandoned for thirty-six years preceding.*

Land-owners.—The chief of these are, Jo. Scott, Esq. of Gala; Robert Pringle, Esq. of Clifton, proprietor of Fairnilee, in this parish; Miss Plummer of Middlestead, liferenter of Lindean, which belongs to this parish; and Nicol Milne, Esq. of Faldonside.

Parochial Registers.—That of births from 1672 to 1690 is extant. But from this latter date till 1714, there is a blank in all the parish records. From 1714 till the present time, the register of births has been kept regularly; but none of burials or marriages has been kept since 1776, before which time, during a period of thirty years, these were recorded but imperfectly.

Antiquities.—Traces of two ancient camps, one on the property of Nicol Milne, Esq. the other at Rink, on the estate of Fairnilee, and also of a considerable portion of Roman road, are distinctly visible.

Modern Buildings.—These are, Gala House, embowered among fine old trees, and the house of Nicol Milne, Esq. of Faldonside. There are also ten large machinery houses, or cloth factories, of various standing;—one recently rebuilt, and one entirely new. The greatest improvement in buildings is to be found

* Perhaps the most ancient notice of the town of Galashiels is to be found in Lord Hailes' Annals, where it is mentioned that the Scots, after the battle of Crichtondean (Kerithtown) in the reign of David II. 1337, quartered at Galashiels, and that the English crossed the Tweed near to this place; and the statement is confirmed by tradition. At the distance of a mile from the town, on the way to the most likely place for crossing the Tweed, near to Abbotsford, was a marsh, now cultivated, and long known as the spot where some of the English fell in a skirmish, and which still goes by the name of the Englishmen's Syke; here also were dug up certain implements of war in the process of draining the ground. And tradition farther says, that the English were taken by surprise in the act of gathering the wild plums with which the environs of the town, till of late years, greatly abounded. Hence the proverbial expression "sour plums," (as they proved to the English), and which was adopted as the sarcastic and triumphant motto to the arms of the baronial burgh.

in two new bridges,—one crossing the Tweed, and the other the Ettrick, on the road from Galashiels to Selkirk. The distance from Galashiels to Selkirk is thus reduced from eight and a-half miles to six; and this saving of the distance will be attended with the saving of men's lives, as many travellers from time to time perished in fording the waters; and the dreadful loss of life, a century ago, by the sinking of the ferry-boat overladen with passengers, on occasion of a Selkirk fair, is yet so well remembered as to enhance the value of the bridges. Amongst the modern improvements in this parish, ought to be noticed a chain or suspension bridge, which was the first bridge of that kind erected in Britain; and also a wooden bridge, so far as I know, of original construction, having the suspension principle, by which width of span is made compatible with lightness and firmness. This last erection appears to be an ingenious and successful piece of workmanship, the timbers being all so arranged as to act by their absolute, and not relative strength. Both of these bridges are designed for foot-passengers only, and are of great convenience, being within the precincts of the town, and serving to unite those parts which are disjoined by the Gala.

III.—POPULATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Amount of population in 1622, | . | 400 |
| in 1791, | . | 914 |
| in 1811, | . | 1162 |
| in 1821, | . | 1546 |
| in 1831, | . | 1534 |

The number of persons residing in the town of Galashiels is 1130; in the country, 404. The number of families in the parish, 301.

The number of persons employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers is 86; in manufactures, retail trade, or handicraft, 223; of professional and other educated men, 14; of labourers not agricultural, 28. There are only five proprietors of land amounting to more than L. 50 of yearly value.

Some explanation is requisite upon the fact, that while there has been a large increase of the manufactures of this place, the number of individuals in the parish has of late years continued nearly the same as before. The town of Galashiels contains in whole 2209 inhabitants; but of these 1079 belong to the parish of Melrose: And it is in the Melrose part of the town that the increase of population has kept pace with the progress of manu-

factures. In that district, on account of its proximity to the river, and to the machinery houses situated on its banks, the number of inhabitants has risen, within the last ten years, from 651 to 1079; and in both districts it is worthy of remark, that the houses are generally new, being all built or rebuilt, with the exception of not more than two or three, within the remembrance of many of the older inhabitants.

The language of the labouring classes is the native Scottish, with a good deal of the accent peculiar to the border districts. But it is gradually improving, from the intercourse of the manufacturers with other places.*

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | Acres. |
|---|--------|
| Land in the parish cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, | 3000 |
| Uncultivated, | 6000 |
| Capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital, | 0 |
| In undivided common, | 0 |
| Under-wood, natural and planted, | 500 |

There are no considerable plantations without a proper mixture of hard-wood, consisting of oak, ash, elm, beech, sycamore, &c. and the management is regularly attended to, and every where well understood, except that branches are allowed to get too thick before they are amputated. No destruction is suffered from the crowding of trees, and nothing of that barbarous practice, common in some districts, is to be seen, viz. the lopping off of all the branches save one, with the vain intention of giving magnificence to the bole.

The rent of arable land runs from L.3 to 10s., and the average is about L.1 per acre. The rent of grazing on the average, and for the whole year, is, for an ox or cow, L.5, for sheep full grown, 6s. 6d. a-head.

Rate of Labour.—The rate of labour, summer and winter, is,

* Among the usual games of the country, that of curling has lately afforded considerable amusement as a summer exercise, being practised with wooden blocks, shaped like a curling stone, on a rink of the ordinary length made of deal, smoothed, and rendered slippery with soap. To diminish the friction, the block is made to slide, not on its entire base, but on three nobs, equidistant, projecting a few lines, and well rounded. Judging by the hard hits, the glee of the players, with their vociferations of censure or applause, as remarkable in this as in winter curling, it would seem that the artificial method is nowise inferior, except in the fitness of scenery, and the effect of wonted associations. The inventor, for such I believe he may be termed, is a Mr Kemp, an ingenious mechanic of this place, and the contriver of the wooden bridge formerly noticed.

for farm-labourers, 1s. 6d., carpenters, 2s. 6d., and masons, 3s. per day, not including victuals.

Breeds of Cattle.—As to the breed of cattle, the Tees-water is almost the only one that is encouraged. The sheep are the Cheviot and Leicester, and half-bred. There are none of the black-faced in the parish, except a few on some lawns, where they are kept, owing to a fancy that the mutton is higher flavoured. From the effect of annual competition in the district, every attention is paid to the improvement of the breeds.

Husbandry and Produce.—The five-shift husbandry is generally observed ; but near the town, where the rents are high and manure can be bought, the four-shift has been too long practised. Hence the disease called finger-and-toe gets worse in the turnip crops, and red clover proves often an utter failure. On clay lands wheat is sown after fallow ; and on dry lands frequently with success after potatoes ; or it is sown in spring after turnips eaten off with sheep. Pease, being found a bad substitute for those green crops which require manure and admit of cleaning, are now little cultivated. Bone dust, as yet but partially introduced, is found to raise excellent turnips, and promises to be of great service, by eking out the resources of the farm, so as to afford annually, to one-fifth of the ploughed land, an effectual manure ; and hence the poor and lazy pea-crop may be altogether abandoned. The land is in general well-drained : stones are plentiful, and the cuts are three feet, filled nearly to the top. Though there is little to do in the reclaiming of waste lands, a continual expense is incurred in securing, by puts and embankments, what is already in the highest state of culture, along the many and furious-running streams already named. Leases of nineteen years have generally prevailed ; but of late, some farms, where no great improvements are required, have been let for eight or twelve years. The farm-buildings are all respectable,—the fields are generally well-enclosed with hedges, dry-stone dikes, which are not approved of, being as much as possible avoided,—and it cannot be said that any obstruction to agricultural improvement arises either from the want of encouragement on the part of the landlords, or from want of capital and skill on the part of the tenants.

The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised yearly in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------|---|---|
| Two-fifths of land in tillage, viz. 726 acres at L. 6 per acre, | . | L.4356 | 0 | 0 |
| One-fifth, or 363 acres, turnips and potatoes, at L. 3, 15s. | - | 1361 | 5 | 0 |
| One-fifth hay at sevenpence per stone of 22 lb. and 150 stone to the acre, | | 1588 | 2 | 6 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| One-fifth in grass at 25s. per acre, - - - - - | L. 453 15 0 |
| Add for a large portion near the town kept in the four-shift, owing to the abundance of manure, - - - - - | 450 0 0 |
| Wood of all ages, 503 acres at L. 1 per acre, annual produce, - - - - - | 503 0 0 |
| Gardens and orchards, - - - - - | 200 0 0 |
| Fisheries, (Salmon in Tweed,) being the remotest from the sea that are let, - - - - - | 20 0 0 |
| The value of cattle being included in the turnip and grass valuation, it remains to value the sheep. 6458 acres for sheep pasture, allowing one and a-half acre to a sheep without turnips, and the average value of the different breeds to be at 9s. per head, - - - - - | 1937 8 0 |
| Total yearly value of raw produce, - - - - - | L. 10,869 10 6 |

Manufactures. — The several branches of these are woollen cloth; stockings and stocking-yarn, white and shoe-leather, and the various articles of machinery used in the woollen factories. But that which chiefly claims notice is the woollen manufacture; and, in giving a view of this, it will be quite impossible to limit the observations to what is strictly parochial, as the line of separation between the Melrose and Galashiels parts of the town being once, no doubt, the channel of the river, is now so obliterated, that part of a house is in one parish, and part in another; and the factory also may be on one side, and the dwelling-houses of the workers on the other side, of the ideal boundary.

The annual consumption of wool amounts to 21,500 stones at 24 lbs. imperial to the stone, of which 21,000 are home-grown, and 500 are foreign, chiefly from Van Diemen's Land. From one-half to two-thirds of the home-grown wool is smeared, which, if not done with too much tar, is not found objectionable for the manufacture of cloth. Nearly a half of the raw material is manufactured into yarns, flannels, blankets, shawls, and plaids; the other half, or nearly, is used for narrow cloths, which bring in the market from 20d. to 6s. 6d. per yard; together with crumb-cloth or carpeting, of grey or mixed colours. By the use of foreign wool, the flannels of this place have risen to a degree of fineness surpassing, it has been said by the Board of Trustees, any made in Scotland, if not even the finest of the Welsh manufacture. Blankets, partly of the Scotch, and partly of the English mode of manufacture, are extensively produced from the white or unlaid wool of this country; and blanket-shawls of many colours, and so full of comfort as to make a bad day desirable, have of late been in great demand; and the gleam of fashion, like a May sun, has given a new stir to the working bees of this town. The shawls are accommo-

dated to all dimensions of person or of purse, being from 3s. to 30s. a-piece. A new manufacture called Indiana for ladies' gowns, price 8s. or 9s. a yard, has lately been tried ; but time is wanting to prove its success. There can be no want of success from inability to spin a fine thread, as I have seen a specimen of yarn so delicately drawn, that the eye would doubt whether the substance were still in the state of carded wool ; and being told the less intelligible amount of spindles and slips, I thought it more convenient to reduce the quantities to lineal measure ; the result of which was, that a pound of wool yielded a thread of more than thirty-seven miles in length. Attempts have not been wanting to produce broad cloths of the finest quality ; but these have hitherto been but scantily supplied. The structure of the machinery, and the education of the operatives, must undergo a gradual change before the finer cloths can become the staple commodity of this place ; but neither is there ground for the apprehension that the industrious may want employment, should the consumer want a more costly apparel, there being here no want of enterprise, or of success in the adaptation of machinery to the production of such articles as suit the wants or the taste of the public.

The progress which this branch of manufacture has made, and is still making, may be known by comparing the quantities of raw material consumed at different periods. According to the former Statistical Account, there were used in the year 1774 only 722 stones of wool by the clothiers, and scarcely as much more, it is added, could be manufactured by private persons ; while in the year 1790, 243 packs of wool (each pack containing 12 st. of 24 lb. English) were purchased by the manufacturers ; besides which, they received from different quarters wool, yarn, and weaved cloth, to a considerable amount, to be dyed and dressed for private use or for sale. Thus, in 1790, the quantity used by the clothiers was 2916 stones ; whereas the consumption during the current year 1832, as above stated, amounts to 21,500. At the time of the former Statistical Account, 241 women were constantly employed in spinning wool ; there were besides occasional spinsters ; and three machines, having each thirty or thirty-six spindles, were employed two or three days in the week. At present there are no females engaged in spinning wool, and no such thing as a human hand occupied in drawing only a single thread. Some of the machines spin upwards of 200 threads at once ; the total spindles are 5336, of which 4352 are driven by water, and the remaining 984 by the

hand. In the former statement the looms were 43, now they amount to 132; but considering the number that are not employed in blanketing, or other cloth of greater breadth than that woven at the former period, the looms now in use are equal to 187 of the old.

The following is an average list of the operatives now employed; their hours of working; and the remuneration of their labours.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------|
| 16 men (slubbers) and 80 children engaged by the year, and working | | | |
| 11 hours per day, receive per annum, | - | - | L. 1387 4 0 |
| The children receive 6d. a-day. They are from 8 to 14 years of age. | | | |
| 20 to 36 spinners paid by the piece;—time in their own hands, | - | - | 1092 8 0 |
| 100 weavers paid as above, and time their own, | - | - | 2600 0 0 |
| 60 dyers and dressers, 10 hours a-day, | - | - | 1560 0 0 |
| 46 women sorting wool and yarn, | - | - | 520 0 0 |

It is probable that with the improvements of machinery, this branch of manufacture, which owes so much to that cause already, will be farther extended. The Honourable Board of Trustees, by offering annual premiums for the best cloths at a given price, and by encouraging the judicious outlay of capital on the enlargement and improvement of machinery, contribute greatly to that extension.

It may be remarked, that children earning 3s. a-week, instead of proving a burden, are a help to their parents; and that in general, though employed at the early age of from eight to fourteen years, their education is not neglected. It is the practice of parents, whilst some of their children are employed in the machinery houses, to have others at school; and so to arrange, that periods of labour alternate with those of learning; and thus, as funds are provided by the children themselves, they are much better educated than those of many other places where the poor have fewer resources. By the habits of industry, too, which they early acquire, they are much more qualified for future service, or the duties of active life, than such as spend their early years in idleness. It is evident from their appearance that they enjoy excellent health, and that they are happy at their light though constant work. There can be no training of the volatile minds of youth equal to that which is maintained at the factories: and it may be observed, that the profits arising from a water-wheel are not to be estimated by the quantity of human labour, for which the wheel is a substitute, but by the steadiness of application which it exacts of all the hands co-operating with its own movements. No time may be lost; a moment's inattention is detected; the diligence acquired

early becomes a habit ; and the same exactness is requisite in all departments occupied by old or young. The effect is not confined to the factories, but goes with the same persons into all their other avocations ; and hence, in no small degree, the industry, sobriety, and consequent advantages, which distinguish the population of this place.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, &c.—The town of Galashiels is a burgh of barony, governed by a residing magistrate or bailie. Its markets have fallen into disuse, and its annual fairs are but thinly attended. The nearest markets are those of Melrose, five miles distant, and of Selkirk, six. The means of communication, in all directions, are highly favourable. There is but one post-office, and the letters are distributed daily through the town by the post-master, free of charges. The new line of road for the Carlisle mail passing through Galashiels is now opened, and several coaches to and from Edinburgh pass daily. There are numerous carriers to all the towns and country places around, and the roads are every where excellent. A ton and a-half of coal are sometimes brought by a single cart; and twenty-five or twenty-six cwt. are no uncommon load. There is no want of bridges in any part of the parish. Of turnpike road there are five miles ; of statute labour, fourteen. A rail-road has been surveyed, designed to communicate with that of Dalkeith, and subscriptions were obtained to nearly the requisite amount ; but the scheme is abandoned for the present.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, built in 1813 in the semigothic style, terminated with a square tower, is in the best state of repair. It is central as to the population, but not as to the breadth of the parish, being about 200 yards from one extremity, and six miles from the other. It was built to hold between 800 and 900 ; but by the help of benches along the areas, it accommodates about 1000 hearers. It may be explained that this inconvenient seating, and the want of room that is still to be regretted, arise from this, that the church was built answerable to the population of the parish, but that half of the town of Galashiels belongs to the parish of Melrose, of which the church is distant upwards of four miles. The manse, built twenty-three years ago, is an excellent house. The stipend consists of 15 chalders of the old Linlithgow measure, or 174 quarters, 6 bushels, $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon imperial, one-half meal, the

other half barley, according to the highest fiars of the county, and amounts on the average of the last seven years to L.242, 11s. 9½d. But by a strange inconsistency as to this and some other counties, only one average is taken in striking the fiars; and ministers have not the means of ascertaining, and, consequently, are prevented from drawing, the amount of stipend as decreed by the court of teinds. The allowance for communion elements is L. 8, 6s. 8d. The glebe consists of somewhat less than 6 acres of good land, contiguous to the manse; and there are paid by the proprietor of Lindean and Bridgeheuch, 9 bolls, 3 firlots of barley, Linlithgow measure, or 7 quarters, 3 pecks, ½ gallon imperial, as annual rent of glebe lands lying within that property. The number of families in the parish that attend the Established Church is 184; but there are twenty-nine families attached to no place of worship, and the remainder are Dissenters. The number of communicants at the Established Church is now upwards of 600.

There are three Dissenting chapels, attended by 88 families; one belonging to the United Associate Synod, one Baptist, and one Independent. The stipulated salary of the first is L. 100 per annum, paid by seat rents, and the contributions of the hearers; but, so far as I know, the ministers of the other two receive no remuneration for their labour.

A Bible and Missionary Society has for some years been established, and it is supported by the contributions of Seceders, as well as of persons belonging to the Establishment. Its proceeds may be taken at L. 12 or L. 15 per annum. When Charity sermons are preached, not annually, but occasionally, and for a specific object, the amount of collection is from L. 15 to L. 20.

Education.—There are five schools in the parish; whereof one is parochial, with a salary of L. 30, and fees to the amount of about L. 60 per annum, besides the legal accommodations; one subscription, with no other benefit than that of school fees and a free school-room; one private, and depending solely on fees; two in the country parts of the parish, of which the one has a salary of L. 8, and the other of L. 2. Of the one salary of L. 8, L. 6 are said to be part of the old parish salary of Lindean, and the L. 2 to each were granted by the heritors when the parochial salary came to be augmented by the present act. In the parochial school, long celebrated as an academy, every branch taught in the best seminaries is conducted in the most approved

manner. School fees run from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per quarter. It may be added, that there is no want of schools in the parish.

Libraries, &c.—There are two subscription libraries; one of considerable extent, instituted in 1797, and containing 1600 volumes; the other, as yet small, but well selected, and of excellent use, belonging to the Sabbath school, which has long been conducted by the Secession minister of this place. There is one public reading-room in the town; and a small printing-office, for no larger publications than hand-bills and advertisements.

Savings Bank, &c.—One of these was established in 1815, but as it belongs to the district including part of several surrounding parishes, no notice strictly parochial can be given. As the main thing, however, is to trace the fluctuations or the progress of such institutions, the following tabular statement may not be uninteresting.

| | | | | Balance due to the depositors at the end of the same years. | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-----|---------|--|---|---|------------|
| In 1815 the deposits were | L. | 192 | 0 0 | 1815, | - | - | L. 150 0 0 |
| 1818, | - | - | 77 0 0 | 1818, | - | - | 279 0 0 |
| 1820, | - | - | 148 0 0 | 1820, | - | - | 325 0 0 |
| 1823, | - | - | 278 0 0 | 1823, | - | - | 560 0 0 |
| 1826, | - | - | 355 0 0 | 1826, | - | - | 776 0 0 |
| 1829, | - | - | 228 0 0 | 1829, | - | - | 715 0 0 |
| 1831, | - | - | 299 0 0 | 1831, | - | - | 707 0 0 |

A friendly society was established in 1802. The greatest number of members at any period was 270; at present they are reduced to 200. The quarterly payment in support of the funds is 1s., and the relief afforded has varied from 3s. to 5s. per week. At this time 3s. are allowed to the sick, and only 2s. to such as receive a permanent supply. The society is for the district. Only seventy of the members are of this parish.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving aid as enrolled poor is 19; the number receiving interim supply, 6. Both of these receive from assessments. The average allowance to each of the enrolled poor is 6s. 6d. per month; but of those receiving interim supply the average allowance cannot be stated. There are church collections besides, which, with occasional donations, may amount to L. 25 per annum. Of this fund weekly distributions are made for the relief of those who suffer from sickness or other distress, and are not on the list of the enrolled poor. There can be no doubt that the assessments have had the effect, both of diminishing the voluntary contributions, and of overcoming the natural reluctance on the part of the poor

to apply for parochial relief. Yet there are still some examples of a virtuous struggle with want; and these it is the business of charity to encourage and sustain; as it is always found that the spirit of independence dies the moment that legal assessment comes to its aid.

Inns.—Of inns and alehouses there are no less than nine in the parish, exclusive of the like proportion in the Melrose half of the town, as well as of spirit shops abounding in both districts; and the evil has recently been aggravated, by granting to toll-keepers the license of retailing spirits,—a practice which, the more it is vindicated by the increase of toll revenue, the more it ought to be reprobated for the demoralization which it creates.

Fuel.—Of fuel, coal is almost the only sort in use. Wood is sold in the neighbouring plantations from 2s. to 6s. a cart; but, with the additional expence of carriage and chopping, it is found to be dearer than coal. The turnip husbandry has put an end to the preparing of peat in summer. Coal is brought from Middleton, a distance of twenty-four miles on an average, to the parish; and sells from 9d. to 1s. per cwt. A large depot has lately been established, which, it is hoped, will have the effect of equalizing the cost throughout the year, and of supplying the poor with small quantities at the common price; whereas they have hitherto been paying twenty-five per cent. above the rate of the market.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Besides the differences before noticed, betwixt the present state of the parish, and that when the former Statistical Account was written, it may be here observed, that the American slubbing-machine recently introduced into this parish, and the first, I believe, in this country, gives every promise of success. Made only from drawings and partial models, it already works well; and the ingenious constructors have sanguine, and not unreasonable expectation, that the same principle will soon be applied to the spinning department. It may be added, that, besides the greater use of water power, there are now four steam-engines at work,—one for grinding tanners' bark, and the others for the manufacture of machinery; and that this power has been rendered available in consequence of the improved state of the roads, which has lowered the price of coal. At the former period, the distance of the nearest post-office (five miles,) was the subject of great complaint;

now the mail, to and from London, passes through the town every day. The want of capital obliged the clothiers at the former period to sell their goods, at whatever price, as soon as manufactured ; now they are wont to lay in a stock of the raw material at the fittest season ; and to make half-yearly or quarterly visits to all parts of the country, when they take in fresh orders, and receive payment of cloths delivered at former periods.

Though roads are in the highest state of perfection, so far as a good line and the Macadam mode of construction are concerned, yet there is no doubt that a great benefit would arise to this place from the adoption of rail, instead of common roads. For the greatest barrier to the industry and fertility of the district is its great distance from coal and lime, and the principal market ; all of which would be brought nearer by a rail-road. The value of land would then quickly be doubled ; and all the branches of industry, receiving a new stimulus from this improvement, the most economical in the end, would commence a rapid growth.

September 1833.

PARISH OF YARROW.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. ROBERT RUSSELL, D. D. MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—The ancient name of the parish was St Mary's. In some old records, it is called the Kirk of St Mary of the Lowes, (de lacubus,) the expletive being derived from its vicinity to two considerable lakes. There was formerly a chapel at Deuchar, (Du-choire, *i. e.* a small valley,—characteristic of its site,) and another at Kirkhope, to which the N. E. and S. E. districts of the present parish were attached. They appear, however, instead of being separate establishments, to have been subordinate to the mother church of St Mary. In the year 1640, the place of worship was changed to the banks of the Yarrow, which henceforth imparted its name to the parish. This appellation has a common etymology with that of several other streams in the kingdom—*Garw*, in the British, *Garbh* in the Gaelic, and *Garow* in the Cornish, signifying what is rough; and being highly descriptive of the river, whether of its rocky bed, or rapid flow. In the foundation charter of Selkirk Abbey, by King David in the twelfth century, the original term is translated *Garua*, which was afterwards softened into *Zarof*, *Yharrow*, and *Yara*, before assuming its present form.

This parish is perhaps the most extended in the south of Scotland. Its greatest length is eighteen, and breadth sixteen miles, with an area of 111 square miles. The figure is very irregular, and some parts of it are almost isolated, for which no other reason can be assigned, than that they formerly belonged to the royal forest. It is bounded on the N. by Traquair, Inverleithen, and

* This account has been drawn up by Mr James Russell, A. M. Preacher of the Gospel.

Stow; on the E. by Selkirk and Ashkirk; on the S. by Roberton and Ettrick; and on the W. by Meggat, Manor, and Peebles.

Topographical appearances.—This high tract, approximating the great central range, embraces in part three principal mountain chains. Their general direction is from W. S. W. to E. N. E. As the Ettrick and Yarrow run nearly parallel in their course, the secondary valleys are small; but where the Yarrow and Tweed diverge, the country is drained by longer and larger streams. Excepting a considerable table-land to the south, the hills are generally ridge-shaped and rounded on the tops, having acclivities of from 10° to 30° . There are two features characteristic of the whole. The valleys are so formed, that a projecting ridge on one side finds a corresponding recess in the other. In these lateral branches, too, the W. and S. W. sides are always steeper and barer than the opposite, insomuch that the fundamental strata of rocks are often prominent, or the surface is covered with stones, from which the soil is entirely washed away. Our forefathers easily accounted for this general appearance, by supposing that the sweep of the deluge came from the S. W., a point of the compass whence the greater part of our wind and rain was still seen to proceed. We subjoin from Ainslie's map a table of different elevations above sea level, but the accuracy of his estimates has been doubted. Blackhouse Heights, 2370 feet; Minchmoor, 2280; Hangingshaw Law, 1980; Shaws Hill, 1212; Yarrow Lochs, 560; Deuchar Bridge, 458; and Ettrick Bridge, 440. The scenery, which is chiefly of a pastoral character, is not unfrequently picturesque.

Meteorology.—As the welfare of the flocks, and the successful labours of the field depend much on the condition of the atmosphere, we shall now state such facts regarding it in this district as have come to our knowledge. The following is an average of six years, from 1826 to 1831, according to a diary of the weather kept by Mr Ballantyne at Tinnis, about 470 feet above the sea. Barometer and thermometer at 8 A. M. and 10 P. M.

| No. of days that the wind blows from each point of the Compass. | | | | | | | | Fair days. | Rain. | Snow | Mean of Barom. | Mean Heat of | |
|---|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|------------|-------|------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| W. | N. W. | N. | N. E. | E. | S. E. | S. | S. W. | | | | | Spring, | 39° |
| 68 | 46 | 23 | 30 | 40 | 22 | 25 | 92 | 175 | 154 | 36 | 29.57 | Summer, | 59°13 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Autumn, | 50°81 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Winter, | 36°89 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Mean, | 44°96 |

A register has also been kept by Mr Alexander Laidlaw, at Bowerhope, on the south side of St Mary's Loch, elevation 560

feet. It gives the yearly average from 1821 to 1831 inclusive, as follows :—

| No. of days the wind blows from each point. | | | | | | | | Fair days. | Rain. | Snow | Mean of Barom. |
|---|------|----|------|----|-------|----|-------|------------|-------|------|----------------|
| W. | N.W. | N. | N. E | E. | S. E. | S. | S. W. | | | | |
| 71 | 35 | 15 | 22 | 40 | 16 | 28 | 101 | 154 | 169 | 42 | 29.44 |

On the 26th February 1808, the barometer stood as high as 30.80, and on 25th December 1821, it fell to 27.80, indicating a range of three inches; but in general the annual variation is only two inches. It appears that the prevailing winds are S. W. and W., and that our greatest rains are in August, September, and October. There has also been kept at Bowerhope a register of the first appearance of flowering of several of the deepest rooted plants, which makes the frequent difference of seasons, reckoned by this rule, to be eight days, and the greatest a fortnight. The *Luminous Arch* and the *Lunar Rainbow* have been witnessed but two or three times within the last thirty years. The *Polar Lights* are still often visible. At present, they very seldom pass or even reach the zenith; but about half a century ago they seem to have been more common, and to have stretched in fantastic groups and sweeping undulations quite to the southern horizon.

*Prognostics from Atmospheric Phenomena.**—For an account of the various *prognostics* of the weather applicable to this district, and no doubt to many others, we are indebted to one on whose intelligence and accuracy we can implicitly rely. First, as to prognostics from *atmospheric phenomena*.—When there is a copious deposit of dew, and it remains long on the grass; when the fog in the valleys is slowly dissipated by the sun's heat, and lingers on the hills; when the clouds apparently take a higher station; and especially when a few cirro-strati appear loose or slightly connected, lying at rest or gently floating along, serene weather may be confidently expected. A change of this settled state is presaged by the wind suddenly rising, by close continuous cirro-strati gathering into an unbroken gloom, and by that variety known as the goat's hair or grey mare's tail. Sometimes a few light fleecy clouds skim rapidly between the superincumbent vapour and the earth's surface, and are the forerunners of snow or rain. Should the cirri not pass away with the immediate fall, but extend towards the horizon, and present their troubled edges towards the zenith, there will be stormy weather for some time. When a modification of the cirro-stratus

* It will be observed that the prognostics here enumerated have an extensive application throughout Scotland.—J.

is formed to leeward, thick in the middle, and wasting at both ends, with its side to the wind like a ship *lying-to*, it indicates continued wind. After a clear frost, we sometimes see long whitish-coloured streaks of cirrus, whose two extremities seemingly approach each other as they recede from the zenith. This appearance is vulgarly called Noah's ark; and if it point from S. W. to N. E., we expect a thaw from S. W. Small blackish boat-shaped clouds rising in the west, and moving sideways, indicate a gentle thaw, with little or no rain. A short glare of red in the east about sunrising portends a rainy and windy day. When the sky shines from the watery exhalations around the mid-day sun, rain or snow will soon follow; when it has a green appearance to the E. or N. E., frost and snow. A crimson red in the west after sunset indicates fair weather; a purple red indicates sleet. Atmospheric changes are more likely to happen a few days after new or full moon than in the quarters. The point where she changes, seems to have little influence; if in the N. W., or N. W. by W., it is often succeeded by boisterous weather. When her horns are sharp and well-defined, we look for frost; when she is whitish and not very clear, for rain or snow. If the new moon seem to embrace the old, very stormy weather is likely to follow. This has long been a received opinion amongst our countrymen, as we learn from the old ballad of Sir Patrick Spens, supposed to refer to an early period of Scottish history.

" I saw the new moon late yestreen, wi' the auld moon in her arm,
And ever alack, my master dear, I fear we suffer harm."

Haloes are seen only when the cirro-strati are slightly but equally diffused over the sky; the sun or moon seems to "wander through the storm," which is at no great distance. One side of the halo is often open or imperfectly formed, owing to the denseness of the vapour, and points to the quarter from which the storm is approaching. When Parhelia or mock-suns appear, the cloud is more stratified; hence, though, like haloes, they forebode a change, it is not so immediate. From the rainbow also, we draw prognostics of the weather. Sea-faring men say,

" A rainbow in the morning—sailors take warning;
A rainbow at night is the sailors' delight."

And shepherds and husbandmen assent to the truth of this old adage. In the former case, (as the arch must be opposite the sun,) it appears in the west, whence our rains generally come; in the latter it irradiates the east, and indicates that the rain is passing from us. Aurora borealis is most likely to appear in change-

able weather, and is often followed by a S. W. wind. From the appearance of falling stars, it may be inferred that the equilibrium of the atmosphere, held probably by the agency of electricity, is destroyed. They generally forebode wind; and when many of them are seen, they are faithful, though silent monitors, warning us to prepare, with the earliest dawn, for the coming storm. There is often much lightning in the night both with and without clouds, which announces unsettled weather, especially if it be whitish in colour. If the thunder clouds are low, we may expect heavy showers or continuous rains. A thunder storm from the south is followed by a genial warmth; from the north by cold and hail. When the wind shifts to the west after rain from S. or S. W., it generally fairs up, or there are but a few showers. Frost and snow from S. W. are the forerunners of bad weather. If the wind turn suddenly from S. W. or S. to N. N. E., while this is accompanied with a smell resembling that of coal smoke, a severe storm will follow. Sometimes in the month of May, often in June, &c. an undulatory motion may be observed in the air, near the earth's surface. This is the land-tide, called by the peasantry *Startling Jack*, which generally takes place when the weather is a little sultry; the weather afterwards becomes colder. A haze or *ouder*, as it is often named, indicates a mild state of the atmosphere, and prognosticates a long continuance of heat and drought. The summer of 1783 was remarkable for this appearance. It is generally accompanied with a moderate S. W. wind, and sometimes a calm, but it never remains long with a north or east wind. When evaporation is perceptibly carried on by the sun's heat, we expect cold to succeed.

Prognostics from Animals.—The troubles that befall our species are not without their use in this respect; headach, toothach, rheumatism, pain in corns, and old sprains and sores, being frequent signs of the approaching storm. Before thunder, many have a feeling of listlessness, oppression, and uneasiness. The lower animals, but such especially as are still in a state of nature, or exposed in the open fields, are very susceptible of atmospheric changes. Sheep eat greedily before a storm, and sparingly before a thaw. When they leave the high parts of their range,—when they bleat much in the evening, or during the night, we may expect severe weather. Goats seek a place of shelter, while swine carry litter and cover themselves better than ordinary, before a storm. Wind is foretold by the cat scratching a post or wall,—and a thaw, when she washes her face, or when frogs come from

their winter concealment. The gathering of grouse into large flocks, the diving of sparrows in dry dust, the fluttering of wild ducks as they flap their wings, the dismal lengthened howl of sea-gulls in an inland place, or around lakes, the mournful note of the curlew, the shrill whew of the plover, the *whet-whet-whet* of the chaffinch perched upon a tree, the crowing of the cock at unusual times,—all prognosticate rain or snow. When the fieldfare, red-wing, starling, swan, snowfleck, and other birds of passage, arrive soon from the north, it indicates an early and severe winter. When gnats bite very keenly, when flies keep near the ground, (shown by swallows that feed upon the wing flying low,) we look for wind and rain. But the most wonderful influence of atmospheric changes is upon those creatures that burrow in the ground. The earth-worm appearing in abundance indicates rain. In like manner, the mole seems to feel its approach, as a day or two before he raises more hillocks than usual; and when after a long severe frost he begins again to work, it will soon become fresh. The effects of electricity are well known both on the atmosphere and on animals; and the deposition of the aqueous vapours with the relaxing damp near the surface of the earth, which in certain states takes place, may give rise to this increased activity.

Additional Prognostics.—Before rain, many plants close their petals and hang down their heads, as the trefoil, mountain-daisy, and chickweed; a paved floor of clay-slate and cellars become damp; in lakes and springs the water rises higher, and the efflux is greater. But the barometer excels all these prognostics; and by combining the observations of both, one may predict the weather with considerable certainty. If it fall a day or two previously, the storm is likely to last; if shortly, it will neither be so severe nor protracted. A similar rule is applicable to the rise of the barometer. But allowance must be made for the influence of certain winds. With the same quantity of rain or snow, the mercury stands highest with a N. E. and E. wind; then N. and W. and S. W., and S. in order. It stands lowest of all when the wind is N. W. and S. E. The extremes both of heat and cold depress, while a moderate temperature raises it. Thus, after long frost and snow, it generally rises before a thaw. Sometimes it is very low with little rain, or in fair weather. But in this case the equilibrium of the atmosphere is destroyed, and nothing is wanting but a sufficiency of aqueous vapour, which may be falling at no very great distance. For example: on January 30th 1814, barometer 28.70, it was mostly clear in this district; but in Inver-

ness-shire there fell a great quantity of snow. In like manner, when the wind is variable, it often blows hard from opposite points, even in this northern part of our island. Thus, 1st April 1813, was a stormy day in Inverness-shire, and the wind N. E.; whereas in Selkirkshire, a very severe blast of snow came from S. W. In both places the wind went to N. W. by W. at night. We mention these things, to show that there are often secondary causes in operation, and at the time to us unknown, which tend to render our calculations incorrect.

The *Climate* of the parish is damp and cold. This must be ascribed to the mists that rise from the marshy grounds, the vicinity of the central mountain range, which serves as a nucleus to embody the hovering exhalations, the prevalence of the W. and S. W. winds, and the peculiar exposure of the vallies to those from the E. and N. E. The vicissitudes of the weather are extremely frequent. Of late years, however, the climate has been much ameliorated by draining, and might be still farther improved by plantation. The diseases in some measure connected with it, are catarrh, rheumatism, consumption, and fevers. These are more prevalent in the vale of Ettrick than of Yarrow, owing to the greater extent of marshy and meadow-ground; but the district is far from being unfavourable to health or longevity. One individual within the memory of man reached the very advanced period of 106 years; and a number have nearly seen the course of a century. There is a woman still alive (1833) who remembers the *forty-five*, when she assisted in putting some cattle and household articles beyond the reach of the Highlanders.

Hydrography. Springs.—The greater part of the springs are perennial. Their temperature is in general about 45°. Calcareous springs are found in fifteen different places; sometimes near each other, and rising in lines. The accumulation of calcareous deposit from one of them, amounting to about forty cart-loads, was once collected for agricultural purposes, but, owing to the steepness of the hill, could not easily be removed. There is a sulphureous spring on Craig farm, and another on Catslacknow, which probably flow from a bed of alum-slate. The latter is sometimes resorted to by the peasantry; but the strength is considerably diluted from its situation in the midst of a marsh, the water of which oozes through. It is called St Philip's Well; and its dedication to a patron saint, as was usual in Roman Catholic times, would seem to intimate that it had been famed for its medicinal virtues. There are two

chalybeates on Bowerhope. The oxide of iron is found in many of the mosses, and seen in the water that flows from them.

Lakes.—The principal lake in the parish, or indeed in the south of Scotland, is St Mary's, connected by a stream with a smaller one, which has the pleonastic appellation, Loch of the Lowes (lochs.) The former is seven and a-half miles in circumference, and in some places thirty fathoms deep; the latter one mile and a-half, and eleven fathoms. Both, to high-water mark, are exclusively the property of the Right Honourable Lord Napier, who has beautified some parts of them by plantation. It is evident that they have originally formed one lake, whose margin extended a considerable way to the N. E. The difference of level is only fifteen inches; and the narrow neck of land which now separates them has been raised by the opposite currents of the Corsecleugh and Oxcleugh Burns. In the introduction to the Second Canto of "*Marmion*," there is a graphic description of the surrounding scenery. It partakes not of the rich or romantic, but has a character of soft repose,—derived from the unbroken slope of the hills, the winding of the water as it washes their base, and the stilly solitude on every side. The margin of the lake is skirted with a few old trees, that serve but to remind us of the ancient forest. At a short distance, too, are the relics of Catholic and feudal times, which harmonize with such a scene, as we trace the vestiges of St Mary's Chapel, with its lone church-yard,—“then gaze on Dryhope's ruined tower, and think on Yarrow's faded flower.”

In the table-land to the south are a number of small lochs, Shaws, Clearburn, Hellmoor, and Akermoor, whose size varies from a mile to a mile and a-half in circumference. Some of them contain inexhaustible deposits of shell-marl; one has been drained, and the marl successfully used in agriculture. Our vallies seem formerly to have been, like many others in Scotland, a chain of lakes. The most marked trace of this kind is at Newhouse, where the Ettrick has worn its way in the course of ages. The rocks rise almost perpendicularly,—and, overgrown as they are with furze, and overhung with copsewood, present a view of Nature's rude magnificence.

Rivers.—In noticing the rivers of the parish, we shall confine our attention to that from which it derives its name, though it includes also part of the Ettrick and Tweed. “The hills whence classic Yarrow flows,” form the boundary with Dumfries-shire, and send a

number of streams to the lochs, of which the principal are Meggat, and what is sometimes called Little Yarrow. After leaving these beautiful sheets of water, and running for fourteen miles over a gravelly and rocky channel, the river joins the Ettrick. The length from its source is about twenty-five miles. From the country being now drained, it swells more quickly than formerly, but not to any height till the loch first overflow; and, on the other hand, a strong south-west wind, by acting on St Mary's as a reservoir, often makes it rise without rain. The strath traversed by this stream has long been classic ground. It is, indeed, singular how many men of genius have at once felt and deepened the charm. "The sang of the outlaw Murray," and "the Douglas Tragedie," both belong to these scenes; and the oldest verses to "The Yellow-Hair'd Laddie," are also localized by certain allusions which they contain. But the best known of the ancient ballads (similar in subject and style to another fragment, "Willie's drown'd in Yarrow,") is, "The Dowie Dens of Yarrow," commemorative of a melancholy event that had made a deep impression on the popular mind. It is supposed to have suggested to Mr Hamilton of Bangour, the more modern song beginning, "Busk ye, busk ye, my bonnie bonnie bride." Hence, also, the plaintive strain of Logan, "Thy braes were bonny, Yarrow stream, &c.;" and Wordsworth's fine effusions, "Yarrow unvisited," and "Yarrow visited," to which, it is hoped, an unpublished piece, entitled "Yarrow revisited," will soon be added. In celebration of a female beauty, the two songs of "Mary Scott," and "The Rose in Yarrow," are preserved. We might refer, besides, to "Yarrow Vale" by Mr M'Donald; "The Braes of Yarrow," by Allan Ramsay; another set by Miss Thomson, and many of a similar kind; while the incidental allusions to this little stream are without number.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks throughout the parish belong to the transition class, and consist almost entirely of grey-wacke, with a basis of clay-slate. The general direction of the strata is from S. W. to N. E., but it often varies for a short way: the dip is generally 45°, though it ranges from the perpendicular to the horizontal. At Newhouse Lynns the river Ettrick has cut through the barrier of an ancient lake for three-fourths of a mile, and to the depth of a hundred feet. Its course is almost straight for a considerable way, when it suddenly diverges; and in one place, the thin strata which are laid bare are bent to a curve of more than 220°. Flinty slate, and loose fragments of porphyry,

feldspar, and quartz, may be observed in glens connected with the head of the Yarrow. There is a formation of new sandstone up Dryhope Burn, and also a bed of transition glossy alum-slate, the latter being found again in a soft and friable state, from exposure to the air, by the side of the river near Yarrow-ford. Iron pyrites occurs plentifully on Bowerhope, and calcareous spar on Kirkstead. In the rocky bank close by the house of Langhope, is a deep bed of rich micaceous earth, having a beautiful metallic lustre. A seam of clay between the strata of slate crosses the Blackcleugh in Blackhouse, and contains glittering particles of a similar nature, which are probably mica also. Pieces of insulated galena have been sometimes picked up. No limestone has as yet been discovered in the parish; but the number of calcareous springs indicate its existence at no great depth.

The skulls of the Urus* described by Cæsar, and an extinct species of deer with large palmated antlers, have been found imbedded in the marl mosses. An old spur, with a rowel nine inches in circumference, was found by Sir W. Scott in Huntly Meadow. The extensive tracts of peat are full of decayed trees, a great proportion on the hills being the birch, and in the low grounds the oak. As instances of the preservative quality of this vegetable formation, two facts may be noticed. There was a tradition of a suicide having been buried in a moss near Berrybush more than a century before; and, in digging the place a few years ago, the body was found entire, with the bonnet, coat, plaid, hose, &c. quite fresh. In casting another close to the dwelling-house of Whitehope, a layer of lint was met with covered with stones. It had evidently been laid out to steep on the subsoil and not removed, and was six feet below the surface.

A great part of our soil is a light, hazel-coloured loam, formed from the decomposition of the rocks, and much mixed with stones. It is common on the sides of the hills, and the gentle acclivities along their base. In some places there are *Trifolium repens*, *Belis perennis*, *Plantago lanceolata*, &c. which make an excellent pasture. Where it is deep, *Polypodium vulgare* is found in abundance; but, where thin and exposed, it is apt to be overrun with *musci*. On the sunny slopes, as Wardlaw Craig, Catslacknowhill, Deucharhope, &c. *Cistus helianthemum*, or the rock-rose,

* A head of the Urus or Bison, in the hall at Abbotsford, which was found in a neighbouring moss, indicates an animal nearly three times the size of the Chillingham wild cattle, and corroborates Cæsar's description.

sometimes covers the surface, to the exclusion almost of every other plant; and in fine seasons, between June and July, a whole hill-side is one entire yellow blow. Along the banks of the rivers, and generally at their confluence with the tributary rivulets, there are low flat promontories of water-worn gravel, which abound with *Tormentilla officinalis*, *Calluna vulgaris*, and different kinds of lichens. Another variety of soil is clay, having a strong affinity to bog, into which it gradually runs, as the subsoil becomes less porous. This commonly covers the bases of the hills that slope eastward,* but partakes less of sweet palatable plants than the light loam already mentioned. The bog soil in this parish consists mostly of argillaceous clay, with a mixture of fine sand, and a little vegetable mould near the surface; the subsoil being uniformly stiff cold argil, sometimes interspersed with stones or round gravel. It produces abundance of *Carices*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Holcus lanatus*, with several of the *Poa*, *Aira*, and *Festuca* tribes. Since draining has taken place so extensively, these have been in a great measure supplanted by *Cnicus palustris* on the mossy ground, *Aira cæspitosa*, *Melica cærulea*, and *Agrostidæ* on the clay. And lastly, we have tracts of peat stretching for miles, and varying in depth from a few inches to seven feet. *Scirpus cæspitosus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Nardus stricta*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Galium saxatile*, and *Vaccinium myrtillus*, are found in greatest abundance; *V. Oxycoccos* and *Rubus chamæmorus* only in a few places.

Zoology.—"Two species of mice have occasionally been met with, which, as yet, have been overlooked by scientific naturalists. One inhabits the tops of the highest mountains, and is a little larger than the *Mus sylvaticus*. The fur has a silky softness and lustre; and as the animal is turned round, it falls open by its weight in a shed along the body, being apparently attached to the skin by a filament of extraordinary fineness and elasticity. The other is of a size between this and the *Mus aquaticus*; has like them a short tail and ears; the tail tipped with white. It has very

* These clay bogs have perhaps been deposited by an eddy of the great western deluge. When the current of this tremendous *debacle* beat violently against the face of a mountain, it seems as if the debris and mud transported by the waters had settled down along the base of an opposite ridge, or it might have been swept round into the lee side of that from which it had been washed away. The soil in question rests upon masses of *till*, i. e. collections of gravel somewhat water-worn, and cemented by very tenacious clay; and the hollow parts, where there are springs, are often covered with some feet of peat moss.

large, strong, grooved, semicircular teeth, and inhabits the low grounds, but is extremely rare. Only three have been observed; one of which, when running, stopt at times, and stood upright with its fore-paws over its eyes, like a weasel or squirrel." *

The woodlands of this district were formerly inhabited by various animals that have disappeared; as the urus, the stag, and another species of deer. The wolf, the mountain-boar, and the wild cat, were common in early times. We learn from the old song, that Ettrick forest abounded with "the hart, the hynd, the doe, the roe, and of a' beasts great plentie;" and hence it was long reserved for the royal chace. The names of places too, some of them common to different spots, still refer to the animals by which they were frequented; thus we have *Ox-cleugh*, *Deer-law*, *Hart-leap*, *Hynd-hope*, *Fawn-burn*, *Wolf-cleugh*, *Brock-hill*, *Swine-brae*, *Cat-slack*, &c. A few otters may be found about the rivers, but badgers are now very rare, and foxes nearly extirpated. Hares, however, and in the lower parts of the parish rabbits, are plentiful. Black and red grouse, partridges, snipes, with a few pheasants, are the principal game. In 1649, and for long afterwards, the black-cock and grey-hen were found on the hills, but at length disappeared, till they gradually returned from the S. W. border, about the same time that means were taken to introduce them by the late Duke of Buccleuch. When the season is severe, swans arrive from the north.

Most of the lakes are stored with pike, perch, eels, trout, and minnow. It is curious that the pike are now seldom seen in St Mary's, where they once were abundant, and larger than in the upper loch. Salmon, grilse, whitling, trout, eels, par, minnows, barbels, and sticklebacks, tenant the rivers. Formerly many lampreys came up to spawn, weighing six or seven pounds, but are now rare. A minute species, however, about the thickness of a crow-quill, is abundant, and may be seen in swarms during the month of May, frequenting the shallow streams, where it deposits its spawn on fine sand. In an economical point of view, the different varieties of trout, though of late years much thinned, are alone important. Salmon and grilse abound only during close-time. They ascend the rivers for spawning in the beginning of October with what is

* Vide Edinburgh Encycl., Art. SELKIRKSHIRE, written by Mr William Laidlaw, who examined both species. The alpine was found on Blackhouse heights: the other, with the white tip on the tail, which probably indicated the male, at Blackhouse and Craig Haugh.

called the Michaelmas flood; and those that have escaped the poachers, return to the sea about, or after, Candlemas.

The whole herbage on the hills around the sources of the Ettrick and Yarrow was destroyed by a caterpillar in 1762, long called the *wormy* year, until 1802, when in June and July a similar occurrence happened. The upper parts of this parish, with the high lands adjoining, were then overrun by a species of grub-worm, belonging, it was at that time believed, to the order Lepidoptera, and genus *Papilio*. * A few of them were fed in a bottle by Mr A. Laidlaw at Bowerhope, when, after undergoing the usual metamorphosis into a chrysalis, they emerged beautiful butterflies,—laid about one hundred eggs, and died. They made their first appearance on the dry benty land, consuming every thing green; and though thousands of crows and other birds fed constantly upon them, they gradually spread into the boggy and finer pastures. The only plants spared were *Calluna vulgaris*, *Juncus squarrosus*, and *Galium saxatile*. When they were feeding, from six to eight might have been covered with the palm of the hand; and where a burn intercepted their progress, they lay in heaps by the side. Some heavy rains at length drowned or swept them into the drains, many of which were literally stopped. They again made their appearance in 1812, 1824, and 1826; but their ravages were confined to some of the heights bordering on Dumfries-shire.†

A similar infliction was felt more partially in 1829, and since by the larva of a *Tipula*,—the common long-legged fly. This species is different from the former in appearance and habits; infesting the soft boggy land. It is as thick as a goose-quill; of a dull purple colour; never burrows deep in the soil; works its way like the earth-worm; and eats only the roots, or at least the white parts of the grass. The black caterpillar that devoured the turnip crop in 1805, and has never been seen since, was the larva of a fly somewhat like a gutter-wasp, of the genus *Tenthredo*, (Lin.) The

* Kirby and Spence suppose the perfect insect to have been a moth of a genus called *Phalena* by Linnæus, *Bombyx* by Fabricius, and *Charæas graminis* by Stephens.

† It is quite certain that the devastation of the herbage is occasioned by the larvæ of the *Charæas graminis* of Stephens, (*Phalena graminis*, Lin.); but the cause of this insect being produced in certain places and seasons in such destructive numbers, has not been ascertained. The injury done to the pastures in some parts of the island, however, is perhaps compensated by the increased production of grass in future seasons; at least, in one case, the herbage of a portion of a hill destroyed in 1824, was, at the distance of six years, and in comparison with other parts of the same hill, perceptibly and materially improved.—Ent. Mag. i. 200.

turnip-fly which is now destructive, is a beetle, *Haltica nemorum*; but from its being generally bred on the manure, to burn a little straw over the surface is found an effectual way of killing it. The large and beautiful green caterpillar, dotted with pencils of black spines, of the Emperor-moth, or *Saturnia spini*, (*Phalæna pavonia*, Lin.) is often found feeding on the heath, where it fixes the brown silk bag it weaves for its winter habitation. But the moth itself, nearly as large as a wren, is rarely seen. There are several insects also that injure fruit trees,—cankering the leaves, and eating the blossom.

Botany.—The botany, like the mineralogy of the district, and probably connected with it, is very uniform. The more rare plants are *Rubus chamæmorus*, which arrives at perfection only on Dryhope, Blackhouse, and Kirkstead; *Festuca vivipara* on the N. skirts of Wardlaw and Altrive; *Vaccinium oxycoccos* on Gil-disgreen and Shaws; *Trientalis Europæa* on Blackhouse Heights; *Trollius Europæus* and *Cnicus heterophyllus* in a cleugh falling into Douglas burn; *Sedum villosum*; *Circea Alpina* on S. E. verge of St Mary's Loch; *Cochlearia officinalis*, in the springs along the ridge between Newburgh and Eldinhope; *Campanula latifolia* in a ravine, Deuchar Hope; *Drosera rotundifolia*, Deuchar Hope; *Scutellaria galericulata* in pond at Whitehope; *Melampyrum sylvaticum* in Newhouse Bank; *Allium ursinum* and *Adiantum capillus veneris*, at Newhaugh Lynns; *Thalictrum alpinum* on the opposite bank of Helmburn. The medicinal plants best known are *Tormentilla officinalis*, the root of which is uncommonly astringent, good for sore throats, and efficacious in curing old ulcers; *Achillea millefolium*, which is common in Yarrow, and highly astringent also; *Linum catharticum*, a purgative when boiled; *Menyanthes trifoliata*, used as a tonic, an infusion from the leaves being taken for stomach complaints, and mixed with *L. catharticum* for rheumatism; *Digitalis purpurea* and *Alsine media* absorbents, and applied for swellings, &c.

In former times, the straths of the Ettrick and Yarrow received the appropriate designation of Ettrick Forest. The name is still retained, but is no longer characteristic of the country, which is almost one continuous sheep-walk. The woods began to be cleared several centuries ago; and the depth of the many mosses may point in some degree to the period of their destruction or decay. The only remnant of the old forest, where the identical trees still stand, is believed to be a few oaks on West Faldshope Hill; but they are remarkable for their age alone, being small and stunt-

ed from the dry rocky nature of the ground. There is a great deal of fine wood at Hangingshaw, the once beautiful seat of the Murrays of Philiphaugh, and now belonging to James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva. A plane-tree measures in circumference near the root, 16 feet, in solid contents 390 square feet; a beech, circumference 13 feet, contents 202 square feet; a lime, circumference $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet, contents 180 square feet; an oak, circumference 11 feet, contents 166 square feet. But Hangingshaw is remarkable chiefly for the extent and variety of its valuable trees. Many of the same kinds are scarcely inferior in size to those already specified; while the ashes, elms, larches, and Scots firs, (raised from Highland seed, and the timber of which is of very superior quality,) average 8 feet in circumference, and 100 square feet in contents. The soil appears congenial to trees of every sort; and so adapted is it to its ancient covering, that copses, particularly of birch, will spring spontaneously wherever the ground is enclosed.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—There are no ancient or modern accounts, so far as we are aware, that refer solely and specially to Yarrow parish. Two MSS., however, are to be found in the Advocates' Library, which notice its former condition in a general description of Selkirkshire. The one was written in 1649, by William Elliot of Stobs and Walter Scot of Arkilton. The other is Hodges' MS., bearing the date of 1722; but it is chiefly a detail of names, localities, and distances. In the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, Art. SELKIRKSHIRE, there is an excellent statistical account by Mr William Laidlaw, a native of this parish, and author of the well-known song, "Lucy's flittin," &c. We may refer also to a prize essay on the same subject by the Ettrick Shepherd, written in a popular style, and published in Transactions of the Highland Society for 1832. The Duke of Buccleuch possesses about two-thirds of the parish, and the other land-owners are, in the order of the valuation of their estates, as follows: James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva, the Earl of Traquaire, Lord Napier, Lord Elibank, James Mercer, Esq. of Scotsbank, Hugh Scott, Esq. of Harden, the Earl of Minto, Miss Williamson of Cardrona, James Russell, Esq. of Ashiesteel, and Henry Rutherford, Esq. of Redfordgreen. Landed property here very seldom changes hands.

Parochial Registers.—A large proportion of the old parochial registers was burnt about seventy years ago, along with the manse.

In those extant, the date of the earliest entry is 1691 ; but from the beginning till nearly the middle of last century, with the exception of a few years between, there is a perfect blank. Since 1741, however, the registers have been more regularly and carefully kept.

Historical Events.—This parish formed a principal part of the sheriffdom of Ettrick Forest. It was recovered, with the surrounding districts, from the English by Sir James Douglas, and as a reward of his services conferred on him by a grant from his sovereign and friend Robert Bruce, who erected them into a free regality. These lands were again forfeited to the Crown, on the attainder of the family of Douglas in 1455, when a part of them was bestowed on Sir Walter Scott, ancestor of the Buccleuch family, who had exerted himself in suppressing the rebellion of the Douglasses. In 1503, James IV. endowed his queen, the Lady Margaret of England, with the Forest of Ettrick and Tower of Newark, which had formerly been the dowry of Mary of Guelders. Hence, probably, our two farms of Deloraine (de la reine) received their name, or afterwards perhaps from Mary of Lorraine. It would also appear that about this time the wood began to be cleared away. We learn from Pitscottie, that James V. had “ 10,000 sheep going in the forest under the keeping of Andrew Bell, who made the king as good an account of them as if they had gone in the bounds of Fife.” This royal demesne was his frequent resort to enjoy the pleasures of the chase.

“ Of such proud huntings many tales
Yet linger in our lonely dales ;
Up pathless Ettricke and on Yarrow,
Where erst the outlaw drew his arrow.”

A pass between the two valleys preserves the traces of one of these expeditions. It retains the significant name of the *Hart's leap* ; the distance of the leap, being distinctly visible at the time when the ground was covered with snow, is still marked by two grey whinstones, twenty-eight feet apart, which are said to have been raised by the king and his followers. Under the Crown, the proprietors of the forest held their lands as rentallers, or king's *kindly tenants*, as they had done under the Lords of Douglas. Very few of them received charters until the year 1587, when James VI. came of age. The quit rents paid to the Crown by the kindly tenants continue burdens on the estates to the present day, and are collected by the chamberlain of Ettrick Forest. There

are several holdings for payment of a dog-leash, a bow, a pair of arrows, &c. in allusion to the ancient sports.

Eminent Characters.—1. Mary Scott, so well known in tradition and in song by the title of *The Flower of Yarrow*, was a native of the parish. She was the daughter of John Scott of Dryhope, and gave her hand to Walter Scott of Harden—no less famed for his freebooting than his bride for her beauty.* 2. Connected with this parish, was *Sir Gideon Murray*, who rose to be one of the senators of the College of Justice, by the title of Lord Elibank. The appointment took place in 1613,—when the Lords dispensed with any trial of his qualifications “because of the certaine knowledge they had of them.” 3. *Dr John Rutherford*, a man of genius himself, and father of a family of genius. He was long known in his professional career as the Yarrow Doctor, from having been a native of this parish, where his father was installed clergyman after the revolution. He studied under Boerhaave; and in 1727, being elected Professor of the Practice of Physic in the Edinburgh University, contributed greatly to establish its high character as a school of medicine. 4. Elibank was the birth place of Russell, the learned historian of ancient and modern Europe. 5. Equally celebrated in a different sphere, was his kinsman, the late *Colonel William Russell* of Ashiesteel, whose heroic military exploits in India, and in particular at Manilla, reflect honour on himself and his country. 6th, For ten years subsequently to the death of the gallant Colonel in 1802, Ashiesteel was the country residence of *Sir Walter Scott*, who had before been appointed Sheriff of Selkirkshire. While living at this outskirt of the parish, he won his earliest laurels; and a small hillock covered with trees, beneath whose shade much of his poetry was penned, is still called “the Sherra’s Knowe.” 7. Among the eminent characters, linked by long residence with Yarrow parish,

* A curious contract relating to their marriage is still preserved in the charter-chest of the present Mr Scott of Harden. From this it appears, that the Laird of Dryhope engaged to find his son-in-law in man’s meat and horse meat at his tower of Dryhope for a year and day—five barons becoming bound, that, on the expiry of that period, the latter should remove without attempting to continue in possession by force! A notary public, signed for all the parties to the deed, none of whom could write their names. A daughter of the Flower of Yarrow was wedded to Gilbert Elliot of Stobs, commonly called “Gibby wi’ the gowden garters.” At their marriage, as at Harden’s own, a contract was made, equally characteristic of the rudeness and rapine of the times. Finding it inconvenient to take home his wife, Gibby besought his father-in-law to lodge her for some time;—a demand which was complied with only on condition that he should give as her board the plunder of the first harvest moon. From them was descended the late Lord Heathfield.

must be mentioned *Mr James Hogg*, author of the “*Queen’s Wake*,” and commonly called the “*Ettrick Shepherd*.”

Antiquities and Traditions.—The ruins of St Mary’s Chapel are now level with the dust, and mark only where it stood. It was injured by the clan of Scott, in a feud with the Cranstouns; but continued a place of worship during the first part of the seventeenth century. The vestiges of the chaplain’s house are also visible; and the ancient cemetery is still used by several families. About 400 yards to the eastward, there is a small mound called *Binram’s cross or corse*, with a few stones on the top,—probably, as tradition represents, the burial-place of some necromantic priest, from decayed wood and ashes being found on its being opened.

There are still some remains of the old towers or Peel-houses, which were formerly occupied by the feudal barons, and their retainers. The oldest of these now standing, and whose figure has been different from all the rest, is Blackhouse, situated in a solitary glen up Douglas (Dhu-glas, *i. e.* dark-grey) burn. This wild tract formed one of the most ancient possessions of the Black Douglasses. Godscroft represents them as baronial lords of it in the time of Malcolm Canmore; and this was the usual retreat of the good Sir James, when recruiting for Bruce. It is here too, that tradition has placed the scene of “the Douglas Tragedie,” and seven large stones on the neighbouring heights are shown as marking the spot where the seven brethren were slain. Elibank Castle, connected also in popular story with doughty deeds, still overhangs the Tweed. The lower part of the massy walls of Dryhope is nearly entire.

There is a piece of ground lying to the west of Yarrow Kirk, which appears to have been the scene of slaughter and sepulchre. From time immemorial it was a low waste moor till twenty-five years ago, when formed into a number of cultivated enclosures. On more than twenty different spots were large cairns, in many of which fine yellow dust, and in one an old spear, was found. Two unhewn massive stones still stand, about 100 yards distant from each other, and which doubtless are the monuments of the dead. The real tradition simply bears, that here a deadly feud was settled by dint of arms; the upright stones mark the place where the two lords or leaders fell, and the bodies of their followers were thrown into a marshy pool, called the *Dead Lake*, in the adjoining haugh. It is probable that this is the locality of “the Dowie Dens of Yarrow.” One cannot easily, however, unravel the details, or fix the

date of the event which the old ballad describes. Some suppose it to have been a duel fought betwixt John Scott of Tushielaw, and Walter Scott of Thirlestane, that proved fatal to the latter; but, as appears from authentic records, this took place on Deuchar Swire.* Others have identified it with the fray at a hunting-match in Ettrick Forest, in which a son of Scott of Harden, resident at Kirkhope, was killed by his kinsman the Scotts of Gilmanscleugh. But the tales of tradition, which are often a few scattered leaves torn from the book of time, it is difficult to collect or connect with accuracy. About 300 yards westward, when the cultivation of this moor began, the plough struck upon a large flat stone bearing a Latin inscription. Bones and ashes lay beneath it, and on every side the surface presented verdant patches of grass. It was examined by Sir Walter Scott, Dr John Leyden, Mungo Park, and others of antiquarian lore. From the rudeness and indistinctness of the carving upon the hard block, only the following characters can be deciphered: HIC MEMORIÆ ET — — — HIC IACENT IN TVMVLO DVO FILII LIBERALI.†

On Dryhope Haugh, there stood a large cairn called *Herton's Hill*, in the midst of which, when the stones were removed about thirty years ago, to enclose the surrounding fields, some urns were found, besides a coffin formed of slabs, and containing ashes. There may still be seen to the westward of Altrive Lake, on rising knolls, five considerable tumuli, probably remains of the ancient Britons. None of them have been opened; but the surface of the largest exhibits a mixture of charcoal and ashes. Its top was surrounded by a circle of stones thirty yards in circumference, with a small square of stones in the centre that were taken away to build dikes; a purpose, to which also feudal castles and sepulchral cairns have been so often applied. "To what base uses we may return, Horatio!"

* To this Sir W. Scott latterly believed the ballad to refer, in which case the stones must commemorate a different event, as Deuchar Swire is at a considerable distance.

† Dr Leyden was disposed to regard it as a relic of the Romans. Such an introduction, however, as *hic memoriæ* is foreign to the Latin idiom; and *hic iacent* are words, which, if they do occur in a genuine *prose* antique, (*Dis Manibus Sacrum* or *D. M. S.* being almost universal,) are at least so rare as to justify a suspicion that the stone where they are found is of Christian inscription. Neither does the material, which is unhewn *greywacke*, seem to smack of classical antiquity. The altars, mile-stones, &c. excavated along the line of Adrian's wall, are uniformly of *sandstone*, and in places where it must have been far transported.

For farther details of the antiquities of this parish, see the MS. of this account, preserved among the Archives of the Church.

III.—POPULATION.

| | |
|---|------|
| In 1755, the amount of population was, according to Dr Webster, | 1180 |
| 1792, By last Statistical Account, | 1230 |
| 1801, By Census under direction of Parliament, | 1216 |
| 1811, Do. | 1225 |
| 1821, Do. | 1249 |
| 1831, Do. | 1221 |

It would appear from the very large average of births registered for the ten years previous to 1700, that the number of inhabitants was then much greater than at present. According to well authenticated testimony, corroborated by the numerous remains of old houses, a similar statement is applicable to the middle of last century, so that in all probability Dr Webster's report was far too low. The depopulation which afterwards began to take place, must doubtless be attributed to the monopoly of farms, the number of cottagers being limited by the necessary purposes of husbandry, and the removal of the inhabitants to towns or manufacturing districts. Of late there has also been a considerable emigration to America. But, notwithstanding, the population has remained nearly stationary for the last forty years, which has been owing chiefly to the compensation arising from two farms having been parcelled out among many small feuars.

The yearly average of births* for the last seven years was 33; of deaths, 23; of marriages, 11. Number of inhabitants in villages, 138; in the country, 1083. Number of resident families of independent fortune, 1; of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, 11; of unmarried men (bachelors and widowers) upwards of fifty years of age, 33; of unmarried women upwards of forty-five, 72; of families, 227; of children at an average in each family, 5; of persons insane, 1; slightly fatuous, 3; blind, 2. The number of persons employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers is 169; in manufactures, retail trade, and handicraft, 52; of professional and other educated men, 5; of labourers not agricultural, 71.

It may be remarked that the shepherd's plaid is a standing article of dress; but the wide blue bonnets and coarse homespun coats of former times are no longer to be seen.

* The number of births, as stated above, is somewhat greater than the average in the parochial registers, as a few annually are not recorded. The number of deaths is the result of the most accurate estimate that can be made.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

| | Acres. |
|--|--------|
| Land cultivated or occasionally in tillage, - - - - - | 2740 |
| Uncultivated, - - - - - | 67800 |
| Capable of cultivation with a profitable application of capital, - | 260 |
| Under-wood—natural, 260; planted, 350, - - - - - | 610 |

The Scots fir being formerly supposed peculiarly suited to this climate, small clumps of it were planted on many of the farms, but now with their branchless stems and tufted tops, only add to the bareness of the scene. Oak, ash, elm, beech, and plane, are the kinds planted at present where the ground is dry; with alder, birch, larch, spruce, and Scots fir, as nurses. The management, though in some places not very systematic, is allowed to be good. The indigenous wood consists of oak, (cut down periodically for the sale of the bark,) ash, elder, birch, elm, hazel, hawthorn, haggerberry, mountain-ash, &c.

The average rent of arable land in the parish is 15s. per acre; of grazing, L. 5 per cow; of pasturing, from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per sheep. The rental of the parish may be about L. 12,000. Farm servants with families have, in lieu of maintenance, three loads of meal, the produce of a cow, and a quantity of potatoes; besides which, ploughmen receive on an average L. 9, and shepherds the keeping of 45 sheep, equivalent generally to L. 18. The yearly wages of female servants vary from L. 5 to L. 7, exclusive of their board. Country artisans, as masons, carpenters, and smiths, make per day from 2s. to 2s. 4d.; common labourers, as roadmen, 1s. 8d. From the records of a society, it appears that the average price of wool and sheep in Selkirk county, from 1826 to 1881 inclusive, has been as follows:—Cheviot wool per stone of 24 lb. English, smeared with tar, 10s. 7d.; do. smeared with turpentine, 14s. 2d.; do. white or unsmeared, 17s. 1d.; stock wether hogs unclipt, 12s. 9d.; stock ewe hogs unclipt, 14s. 2d.; ewe hogs sold at market, 11s. 3d.; top wether lambs, 6s. 6d.; second ewe and wether lambs, 5s. 3d.; draft ewes, 12s. 8d.; wethers unclipt, 19s. 9d.; wethers for turnip feeding, 20s. 6d.

Breeds of Live Stock, &c.—About the end of last century, the black-faced breed of sheep was gradually supplanted by the Cheviot. The experiment commenced on the lower farms, but from attachment to established practice, and an idea that the lambs could not sustain the cold or storms of spring, it was slowly extended, till the rising value and demand for fine wool at length made it general. Of late

years, however, when former prices were no longer realized, the original race has been partially replaced. They are found to thrive best of any on exposed mossy lands, and in stormy seasons are by far the surest stock. There are now 1300 black-faced in the upland parts of the parish, which are generally crossed with the Cheviot or Leicester breed. On some grassy farms, the Cheviot is in like manner crossed with the Leicester, which supplies the most valuable lamb for the butcher market. But in this case, when the stock is a stationary one, it is apt to degenerate, as *second* ewe lambs are bought in annually in place of the draft ewes, so that this system succeeds best when a *flying* stock (*i. e.* one changed every year,) is kept, and this can be done only on enclosed farms. Some storemasters let their flocks go unsmeared, others use turpentine and different salves, while many retain the old Scottish preference for tarry wool. The lambs are now generally three weeks later in being sold than they were thirty years since. It has been said that they are later in being fit for sale, owing to the less nutritious grasses produced by over-draining and mole-catching. But the circumstance, it would appear, arises chiefly from the market being first supplied with park lambs of finer breed and faster growth, and from the discontinuance of ewe-milking, which made an early sale matter of necessity. Great attention has lately been paid to the improvement of stock, as far as breeding, pasture, shelter, and shifting are concerned. The cattle kept for domestic purposes were formerly a coarse kind of the Dutch breed. The Ayrshire breed was afterwards partially introduced, and latterly the principal attention has been directed to the short-horned breed,—a mongrel kind of which is now the prevailing stock. They are more readily purchased for feeding, and a considerable number is annually reared. The dairy, indeed, has not been better replenished, but this is an object of minor importance. A number of Highland cattle also is grazed on the hills. Where the pastures are coarse, since the complete draining of the bogs, they consume what the sheep would not eat, and must be left to lodge; and besides, as a new sward soon springs up, provision is at the same time made for keeping more sheep than before.

Husbandry and Produce.—The extent of land that had once been cultivated is very great. Many spots, on which are gathered heaps of stones, seem to have been tilled with mattocks, and formed oases in the midst of the forest. The traces of the plough are also visible far up the hill sides, which have returned to their natural state.

Some waste land has lately been reclaimed, but little more could be done in this way *with any profitable application of capital*, owing to the dampness of the climate, and distance from lime. Indeed, in the higher district, much at present under crop might be better laid out in permanent pasture, were it not that the farmer must keep a pair of horses to drive his fuel and hay. The turnip husbandry is pursued; the rotation being the four or five shift. Though in late seasons there is a greater luxuriance of straw than grain, the crops in general are sufficiently ripened; and winter wheat, which is occasionally sown, seldom fails to be productive, and of excellent quality. The turnips are often nearly destroyed by the disease called *finger-and-toe*, against which bone dust seems to be the best preventive.

Draining has been much practised in our bogs, and perhaps carried too far, especially on clay soils. At first, no doubt, it has a considerable effect in improving them, but if the drains are kept open, the ground will, in eight or ten years, be overrun with *Aira cæspitosa* and *Agrostideæ*. It is a common observation, that during the last twenty years the pastures have become much coarser. Various remedies have been resorted to;—in some cases the drains being stopped altogether, and in others allowed to fill up a little before a second, but particularly before a third or fourth cleaning. For real improvement, it accords with the experience of practical farmers to drain closely on mossy bogs, more sparingly on stiff clay, and merely to take off the surface water on thin ground covered with *bent* or coarse grass. Irrigation, so much in vogue about the beginning of this century, has, like all experiments begun without attending to local circumstances, been nearly laid aside. The Yarrow is too pure for this purpose, leaving the richer particles in the loch whence it flows. The water, when first applied to a meadow, tends greatly to eradicate the *fog*, and decompose the half-decayed roots and leaves, and will, therefore, for some time, act as a stimulus with seeming advantage. But when the meadow is annually mowed without an occasional top-dressing, or where there is no extraneous matter in the irrigating stream, the system will in the end produce, as it has done here, comparative or complete exhaustion. Substantial farm-houses with suitable offices are built almost everywhere, and the farm-servants accommodated with comfortable cottages. Pretty good slate may be obtained in various parts, but no quarries have been regularly wrought. All the arable land, and some of the sheep walks, are enclosed.

The duration of the leases on the Duke of Buccleuch's estate is

only nine years. His farms are never advertised, and the occupiers rarely removed; so that this cannot be considered any great drawback in a district chiefly pastoral. Some of the other land-owners grant leases of nineteen years. On Lord Napier's property, the rents are paid according to the price of the three leading articles,—wool, top wether lambs, and draft ewes,—having a reference to the sales of a particular farm. There are restrictions, however, in many of the leases, which more than their shortness form an obstacle to improvement. Such is the clause that prohibits *moor-burning*, with a view of protecting the game. It is only in its young state that heath is loaded with a profusion of palatable shoots, suited for the feeding of sheep. This is the kind, too, which grouse uniformly prefer in the morning and evening twilight, when they eat with the greatest avidity, requiring the strong bushy parts merely for cover and breeding. Let the old heath then be burnt in successive patches, and the common interest of landlord and tenant would be enhanced by a provision both for the feathered and woolly tribes. In many leases also, there is an obligation to catch the moles. Several of the store-masters and most of the shepherds are opposed to the practice, especially on strong grassy land. Since the long proscription thus instituted, the ground, it is said, has been overgrown with harsher grasses or insipid *fog*, and the *pinning* in consequence introduced. But the mole, by raising its hillocks, which are spread either by the sheep or manual labour, and thus supplying an annual top-dressing, imparts a richness and variety to the pasture. As the practice of extermination is, to say the least of it, of doubtful utility, the farmer should be left to the exercise of his own self-interest and discretion.

Agriculture suffers in some measure from the want of well-timed embanking. More march fences between different farms are required; and in some upland places, a few enclosures, with better pasture than the rest for such of the stock as are not thriving, would be a decided advantage. So would enclosed clumps of plantation generally, upon the hills; they would beautify the country, ameliorate the climate, furnish fuel from their thinnings, and give additional shelter and value to the sheep-walks. The greatest obstacle to improvement is the distance from coal, lime, some kinds of manure, and markets.

While too little encouragement has been given by proprietors, the influence of a local institution has been considerable and extensive. The Pastoral Society of Selkirkshire was established in

1819, under the patronage and through the patriotic exertions of the Right Honourable Lord Napier. It meets yearly; but in this parish the meetings are only triennial. Besides occasional grants of money from the Highland Society, it has expended considerable sums for bettering the breeds of Cheviot and black-faced sheep, horses, and cattle. Nor have the humble followers of the flock been forgotten, as premiums are also given for dexterity in sheep-shearing.

The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised yearly in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|------|---|------------------|
| Oats, 750 acres under crop; 27 imp. bushels per acre; at 2s. 9d. | | | |
| per bushel, | - | - | L. 2784 7 6 |
| Barley, 250 acres under crop; 27 imp. bushels per acre; at 3s. 9d. | | | |
| per bushel, | - | - | 1215 12 6 |
| Cultivated Hay, 500 acres under crop; 150 stones of 22 lb. each per | | | |
| acre, at 8d. per stone, | - | - | 2500 0 0 |
| Turnips, 375 acres under crop; at L. 4 per acre, | - | | 1500 0 0 |
| Potatoes, 125 acres under crop; at L. 7 per acre, | - | | 875 0 0 |
| Pasture Land, 43,000 sheep at 8s. per head, L. 17,200 | 0 | 0 | |
| 205 cows L. 7 do. | 1435 | 0 | 0 |
| 176 young cattle, L. 3, 10s. do. | 616 | 0 | 0 |
| 125 Highland cattle, L. 2 do. | 250 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | <hr/> 19,501 0 0 |
| Gardens, | - | - | 80 0 0 |
| Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods and copse, | | | 100 0 0 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total yearly amount of raw produce raised, | | | L. 28,606 0 0 |

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication, &c.—There is no market town in the parish; and the nearest is Selkirk, nine miles distant from the church. The only villages are Yarrow-Ford and Ettrick-Bridge, which are but small. The roads are excellent, being made and kept in repair by a contribution on the part of the landlords and tenants, levied in lieu of statute-labour. Along each of the rivers Ettrick and Yarrow runs a line of road—two cross roads between them, another leading to Tweedside, besides a small portion in detached corners; which in all extend to a length of thirty-seven miles. There is also a rough tract over Minchmoor, which was long the mail road from the south; it was the route that Montrose took after his defeat at Philiphaugh, and is still the line of march for troops. We have three bridges across the rivers; one of which being old and ill-constructed, another is about to be built in its vicinity.

Ecclesiastical State.—This parish formerly embraced the pa-

rish of Buccleuch, which was annexed to Ettrick, and some farms north of the Tweed, annexed to Innerleithen in 1650; the great extent of Yarrow being the principal reason of their disjunction from it. The church is ten miles distant from the extremities of the parish; but the situation is central. It appears to have been built in the year 1640. It was put into a state of very complete repair in 1826, and affords accommodation for 500 persons. The sittings are divided among the heritors according to their valuations, and by them among their tenantry. The manse was erected in 1811. It is singular that the glebe lies eight miles to the west; it is on the side of the loch, and is the same that was attached to St Mary's Chapel, no excamb having ever taken place. The original boundaries are forgotten; but it is altogether hill pasture, and will support sixteen soomes of (*i. e.* 160) sheep. The annual value of the glebe is L. 32, 16s.; allowance for grass glebe, L. 20 Scots, or L. 1, 13s. 4d.; communion element money, L. 8, 6s. 8d.; and the stipend in victual, sixteen chalders, equal to 186 quarters, 3 bushels, and 1½ gallon imperial; or in money, on an average of prices for the last seven years, L. 259, 6s. 5½d. The old valued rental of the parish amounts to L. 31,377, 9s. 8d. Scots. The deans of the Chapel Royal are titulars of the teinds, and generally take a grassum for nineteen years. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch is tacksman, paying a small annual rent. The numbers belonging to the Established Church are, of families 210, and individuals 1161; to the Dissenters, families 17, and individuals 60. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is 330, and divine service is generally well attended.

Two societies for religious purposes are established. "The Yarrow Parish Bible, Missionary, and Jewish Society," has an annual collection at the church doors, averaging L. 12. There is also a Missionary Society at Redfordgreen; the members belong to the parishes of Yarrow, Ettrick, and Roberton, and the yearly contributions vary from L. 6 to L. 10.

Education and Literature.—The total number of schools is four; of which two are parochial, and the other two supported by subscription of individuals. Beside the usual branches of instruction, Latin and geometry are occasionally taught. A large and handsome new school-house was built at Yarrow in 1830. It is now in excellent order. The schoolmaster's house has been long a great resort for boarders, to the number frequently of twenty-five; the board being moderate, and the situation particularly healthy. The paro-

chial teachers have the legal accommodations, with the maximum of salary between them; of which L. 31, 6s. 6½d. is allotted to the school at Yarrow, and L. 20 to that at Ettrickbridge; the fees at the former amounting to about L. 10 per annum; and to L. 12 at the latter. The general expence of education per annum, may be rated at from 8s. to 12s., exclusive of books and stationary. One of the private schools is particularly necessary to accommodate the families in the uplands of Yarrow, and were well worthy of aid from those proprietors whose estates are contiguous. There are still two points in the parish, Ashiesteel and Redfordgreen, so remote from the existing schools, as to prevent attendance on any of them,—being five miles across the hills from the nearest. The population around each of these points does not, however, exceed seventy individuals. There is also a Sabbath school at Ettrickbridge.

Libraries.—A circulating library is established in the parish; while many of the farmers and others are connected with those in Selkirk. A few years ago, the shepherds had a Debating Society among themselves, which, owing to their distance from one another, has been discontinued.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was established at Selkirk in 1815, of which a branch exists in Yarrow. At present the amount of money belonging to the parish in the treasurer's hands is L. 120; and on an average of the last seven years, L. 29 has been annually lodged, and L. 37 withdrawn. The investments are usually made by servants, of whom the greater part are females.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are supported chiefly by legal assessment, that method having been introduced in 1751. Some parts of its progress may be noticed.

| | No. of Paupers. | Ann. Assess. | Ann. Allow. to each. |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1751, | 28 | L. 56 | L. 2 0 0 |
| 1757, | 51 | 90 | 1 15 0 |
| 1800, | 60 | 360 | 6 0 0 |
| 1801, | 60 | 290 | 4 17 0 |
| Aver. of last seven years, | 30 | 160 | 5 7 0 |

The cases of the poor who are maintained at their own houses, are considered twice in the year. The usual allowance for each child is 1s. and each aged pauper 2s. 6d. per week. The average of church collections expended in gratuities, education, &c. is L. 10; donations and legacies, L. 4. It appears that, shortly after the introduction of the poor's rate, the numbers on the list had attained

their maximum, till the scarce and dear years at the beginning of this century. It appears, too, that pauperism has not made much progress, there being nearly as many persons on the roll, and as much allotted to each (allowing for the difference of the value of money) at first as at present. The tendency of the system, however, has been partially felt in relaxing industry, and encouraging improvidence,—in loosening the ties of the nearest kindred, and lowering the tone of independence,—and leading to insolence or ingratitude. It is not therefore, from the principle of the system, that no great evil has arisen but from the countervailing checks,—the aversion of farmers to have more cottagers than what are necessary for their husbandry, together with the strict economy and surveillance exercised by the managers of the poors' funds. Those on the list are chiefly old women, widows with young helpless families, and persons weak in body or intellect. There were several individuals on it lately at the age of 93.

Inns.—Three alehouses are kept in the parish, which are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of travellers, but somewhat demoralizing within a certain sphere.

Fuel.—Heath, turf, and wood, are burnt by the peasantry, but in small quantities, for coal and peat are the fuel principally used. Coal is brought from the pits in Mid-Lothian, a distance, on an average, of thirty miles, so that on arriving here, it cannot be rated lower than 1s. 3d. a hundred weight. A mode of improving peat as fuel, by compression, has lately been introduced by an ingenious gentleman of this parish, Mr Walter Tod, Langhope. From his experiments it appeared, that, by taking an equal weight of each, this preparation, compared with the best coal, burnt as long, and gave six degrees more of heat. Compared with the original peat, it lasted double the time, and raised the thermometer fourteen degrees higher. By this means, also, fuel can be secured in rainy seasons, and at any leisure time before frost sets in, so that it is to be hoped the improvement will soon become general.*

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

A very considerable change has taken place in the husbandry, habits, and household economy of the people in this parish, since

* Its importance, however, will be still greater in the arts, especially the melting of metals. The various specimens we have seen are beautifully black and compact, and the expence of preparation is trifling; but for a description of the process itself, we must refer to Mr Tod's Prize Essay in Trans. of Highland Society for 1832.

the date of the last Statistical Account. The Cheviot have superseded the black-faced sheep; and, with the breed, the management has been materially altered. There is no ewe-milking as formerly, and no *hog* hirsle kept, but the different parts of the stock roam promiscuously and at large. In very severe snow-storms the flocks on the higher grounds used to be removed to the low country of Annandale in quest of food, but now a store of hay is cut from the bogs, and forms ample winter provision for the sheep during any storm; while *stells*, or enclosures for sheep, at the same time, are more numerous and accessible. Within the last forty years, too, the country has been thoroughly drained. Equally great have been the improvements in the agriculture of the parish.

The system of having outfield and infield was long practised; the milk ewes and cattle being folded at night, and the ground thus manured for cultivation. Cropping, too, went on till the particular spot was exhausted. But now a better system prevails, the arable and meadow land being enclosed and subdivided,—the two-horse plough used,—turnip husbandry introduced,—a regular rotation of cropping followed,—and wheat, so long deemed unsuited to our soil and climate, frequently raised with success. During the same period, however, the principle of *non-residence* has been largely acted on; and out of forty-five farms in the parish, twenty are *led* farms. On many of these were formerly large families, with servants and cottagers, and there are five such lying adjacent,—a state of things the more to be regretted, when its only advantage is a trifling addition of rent, and the saving of outlay on farm buildings.

The new houses of the tenants have for the most part been built in better style and situations than the old, which were small thatched cottages, placed generally on some sloping bank, or up some secluded burn, where security was sought in marauding times. The roads also have been greatly improved, and are far more frequented. Besides, all classes are better fed and clad. The dress is no longer of home produce or manufacture. What used to be the luxuries have become the necessities of life, so that, instead of a single carrier on foot as formerly, a number of carts supply the Yarrow vale with wheaten bread. A solitary newspaper formerly made its passage up the water by slow stages and through many hands, contrasting forcibly with the regular and rapid circulation of periodicals at present. Withal, there has been a striking change in the habits of the peasantry. Local attachments have given way to general knowledge. The

legends of superstition are in a great measure forgotten, and its rites forsaken. There is no longer "heard a lilting at the ewes' milking," or "The tales at the farmer's ingle." The minstrel's strains, however, had lingered long after the deeds which they commemorated were over. In this pastoral district it was that Sir Walter Scott found many of the old ballads which had been handed down for ages as a patrimony from sire to son. But, on the publication of his "Minstrelsy," the spell that bound them was broken; and these relics of Border song, thus laid bare to the light of day, have, like the friendly and familiar spirits of Border superstition, on being noticed with peculiar kindness, entirely disappeared, and that, too, in consequence of the very effort made to preserve them. In this district, too, there existed almost a feudal relation between master and servant; there being instances in which the domestic has grown up and grown grey beneath the same roof; but now the half-yearly term is too often one of change, and the stipulated service performed with mechanical unconcern.

The capabilities of improvement in this parish have been for the most part suggested in the course of the preceding account. It may only now be noticed, that there is still room for one or two more bridges and for additional roads, communicating with Tweed-side and along the south bank of the rivers, or at least leading to the farm-houses placed there. And farther, were the parish of Meggat disjoined from Lyne, the adjacent parts of Ettrick and Yarrow annexed to it, and a clergyman regularly to reside, this would prove highly beneficial to the people of that sequestered district, and extend the ministrations of an establishment by which, pre-eminently, "the gospel is preached to the poor."

September 1833.

PARISH OF ETTRICK.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES SMITH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—In a charter of Alexander II. to the monks of Kelso, the Ettrick of Selkirkshire is repeatedly mentioned by the various names of “Ettric and Ethyric.” The name is of doubtful origin. “Eitrich in Gaelic signifies a furrow or trench. Eithrach in the same language means a wilderness.” Again, the *Ed* of the language of the British Aborigenes signifies a current, and *Terig*, mud; both names being characteristic of this river when its waters are raised * and agitated by the mountain-torrents.

In the last Statistical Account, the parish has been described as being at an average ten miles long by ten broad; but in a late survey published by Oliver and Boyd (1829) its area in square miles has been stated at 68.69 miles or 43,968 imperial acres. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Yarrow, and touched by Meggat in Peebles-shire; south and west by the Parishes of Moffat and Eskdalemuir in Dumfries-shire; and on the east, by a part of Yarrow and Robertson. Its surface is hilly and mountainous. The hills are beautifully rounded, and are almost all covered with rich green grass from top to bottom: Two or three indeed are spotted with heath, which only adds by its variety to the beauty of the scenery.

* Mr James Hogg, in his Statistics of Selkirkshire, published in the 18th number of the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, says, “In old deeds and charters it is first found written Alterick, then Atterick and finally Etterick. Atterick is really as good Gaelic as a borderer could spell. Alterick signifies the rising stream, or stream of the rapid ascent.”

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Ettrick-pen, the highest of these, has been stated (above the level of the sea) at | - | - | - | - | 2200 feet. |
| Wardlaw, | - | - | - | - | 1986 |
| Old Ettrick hill,* | - | - | - | - | 1860 |

Meteorology.—The following is a table of the mean temperature of the atmosphere, as observed at Thirlestane, the seat of Lord Napier, for the four following years, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824.

| | Winter. | Spring. | Summer. | Autumn. | Mean. |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1821, | 36° | 42°.3 | 54°.3 | 47°.3 | 44°.9 |
| 1822, | 36 .3 | 43 | 56 .9 | 44 .9 | 45 .4 |
| 1823, | 35 .3 | 41 .9 | 52 | 46 .5 | 43 .7 |
| 1824, | 35 .7 | 39 | 52 | 42 .3 | 42 .2 |

The following is a table of the prevailing winds for the same four years, as observed by Mr Alexander Laidlaw, Bowerhope, on the borders of the parish.

| | Directions of the Wind. | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| | W. | N. W. | N. | N. E. | E. | S. E. | S. | S. W. |
| 1821, | 68 | 27 | 7 | 20 | 38 | 17 | 21 | 127 |
| 1822, | 88 | 20 | 11 | 19 | 40 | 13 | 36 | 112 |
| 1823, | 81 | 33 | 18 | 11 | 39 | 24 | 31 | 92 |
| 1824, | 64 | 51 | 14 | 34 | 40 | 9 | 17 | 101 |

The following is also a table of the weather, as kept by the same observing individual for the same four years.

| | Fair. | Rain. | Snow. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1821, | 160 | 147 | 58 |
| 1822, | 168 | 163 | 34 |
| 1823, | 155 | 153 | 57 |
| 1824, | 168 | 153 | 45 |

Hydrography.—The Loch of the Lowes spreads itself at the northern boundary of the parish, through which the drain-like stream which forms the Yarrow makes its way. This lake is far inferior to St Mary's, which is only separated from it by a very narrow neck of land; St Mary's being about three miles long, half a mile broad, and from twenty-eight to thirty fathoms deep, while the Lowes is only one mile long, a quarter of a mile broad, and about twelve fathoms in depth. The Ettrick, on the south side of a range of hills, called, "the back-bone of the country," rises from among a few rushes between Loch-fell and Capel-fell, two miles above Potburn, said to be the highest farm-house above the level

* It is supposed that these elevations of the hills, as taken from the county map, are somewhat less than their actual height above the level of the sea.

of the sea in the south of Scotland. It is fed by many a little raging mountain-torrent. When it is small, and viewed from the top of the hills in a fine sunny day, it is like a thread of silver; but when raised by the storms and the rain, it bids defiance to all its banks, and sweeps over the adjoining haughs with the raging fury of a "mountain sea." After a course of about thirty miles N. E., the Ettrick loses itself in the Tweed, between Sunderland Hall and Abbotsford. *Timah*, a small rivulet, rises on the heights between the parishes of Eskdalemuir and Ettrick, which, after a course of about six miles in nearly a northern direction, falls into the Ettrick at Ramsay-cleugh, about a mile below the kirk. *Rankle-burn*, another stream, rises also between the parishes of Ettrick and Eskdalemuir. It is celebrated by the song of the maid of Rankle-burn, and by tradition, for being the place where the ancient progenitors of the family of Buccleuch first took up their residence: (*Satchells*.) After passing in a direction similar to the *Timah*, it falls into the Ettrick, opposite to the old grey dingy ruins of the tower of Tushielaw.

Geology.—The stratification of the range of hills in this district runs in general from S. W. to N. E. with a variety of dips. The rocks are of the transition series. It is wholly schistose, consisting of greywacke and clay-slate. The hills are therefore of a rounded form, and indicate the formation to which they belong. There are no interesting fossils or minerals found in the country. A piece of antimony glance was picked up in the channel of a little burn near the source of the Ettrick, some time ago, but though considerable search has been made since, no more has yet been found. Iron pyrites has also been collected in the romantic linns of the Ettrick. At Meucra, near the Lochs, a black rock has been sometimes visited by the admirers of nature, which some have pronounced to be glossy alum slate; it has the appearance of bone. Almost every kind of soil is to be met with here. But there is in general a deep moss on the top of the hills. This becomes by mixture of sand or gravel, mossy gravelly soil. There is often again a cold stiff clay on the sides, or near to the bottom of the hills; this again by mixture of sand or gravel, forms a new and different kind of bed for the plants and grasses. But the haughs on the sides of the river are in general of a fine *alluvial* soil, washed from the hills and formed on the banks. The soil, indeed, of whatever kind, is in general good, and would bear crops of wheat,

but the climate being cold, damp, and late, we could not expect it to ripen; therefore no such crop is ever attempted to be raised.

Zoology.—It may be noticed under this head, that till of late we have been but little visited by small birds of the singing kind. Now, among the young plantations, we hear the blackbird and the thrush, and a nameless train vying with their notes to outdo the *laverock*, the ancient songster of the forest. And we may add that the words of Wordsworth are sometimes no fiction.

“ The swans on sweet St Mary’s lake,
Float double, swan and shadow.”

Sea-trout and salmon, when the rivers are flooded in the winter season, make an excursion up the Ettrick, the Timah, and Rankleburn, and they often even find their way into some of the smaller tributaries. But trout, perch, and pike, are the only natural and permanent inhabitants of all our waters.

Botany.—Though the country be alpine, we have not discovered any rare alpine plants in it. Among the long grass interspersed with *spretts* may be seen the *orchis* in many of its beautiful varieties; the meadow cardamine (*Cardamine pratensis*), with its lovely lilac petals; and among marshes, the white Parnassian grass (*Parnassia palustris*), and butter plant (*Pinguicula vulgaris*). The plants of *Eriophorum* (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) or cotton-grass, in the mosses or among the black bent, or heath, are like so many little tufts of cotton waving in the breeze, or sparkling in the sun. The lucken-gowan, (*Trollius Europæus*), is met with also very frequently among the meadow grounds, or the low sloping sides of the hills. And the cloud-berry, (*Rubus chamæmorus*), is gathered on some of the mountain tops. These are samples of the Flowers of the Forest.

The grasses found here, as connected with soil, and with the feeding of the flocks, are more interesting, as they are more useful. Deer-hair, (*Scirpus cæspitosus*), is generally found on a thin mossy soil, mixed with heath; it is only of service for summer pasture. Stool bent, (*Juncus squarrosus*), rises where there is a considerable mixture of sand with the soil; this is an evergreen, and is preferable to the deer-hair. It has been called “an excellent bait,” being a hardy perennial. White bent, (*Nardus stricta*), and flying bent, (*Aira cærulea*), are also less valuable, being less durable, living and dying in autumn with the deer-hair, and leaving a whiteness on the hills like the decay of winter, and straw-

like rustling leaves, ever borne and wafted by the wind in gusts among the hills. But of the three following, we believe, the shepherd would say, we could scarcely speak too highly. 1. *Eriophorum vaginatum*, which in its youngest state is called moss-crops, is greedily pulled up by the sheep; in a farther advanced state it is called *ling* or *laing*. This, to speak in the words of one who has long observed its advantages, is a very valuable spring pasture; it is a hardy perennial, and affords a grateful and nourishing food. 2. *Sesleria cærulea*, blue moor-grass, or *pry*, is also a hardy perennial. It resists the severity of the winter. It remains green through the spring months, and is one of the most valuable of all our mountain grasses. 3. *Juncus acutiflorus*, sprett, is very abundant among the hills. It grows most luxuriantly on a wettish soil. While it serves for pasture, it is chiefly cut for hay, during the autumnal months; and, while it is very serviceable for the black cattle during the winter, a portion of it is usually kept for the sheep, in case of a "lying storm."*

The name Forest, implies that the district was once "the land of trees." But the freebooters and moss-troopers in the time of James IV. cut and destroyed many of them, and even John Murray, the Sheriff of Selkirkshire, who should have protected the rights of his royal master, has his name enrolled among the number of the delinquents. At last, James V. we are told, "showed a disposition to change the forest into what it now is,—a sheep-walk, by stocking a part of it with extensive flocks." There are now but few remains of the ancient forest. An old tree may be seen here and there, and sometimes a few together, to mark both the antiquity, and the natural features of the wood of the country. The kinds of the natural wood must have been very numerous. We have counted between twelve and fourteen in one wide cleugh alone. The prevailing, however, are the ash, the mountain-ash, the birch, the alder, the willow, the thorn, &c. But while the natural wood is dwindling, decaying, and dying, several young plantations are rising, flourishing, and waving among our hills, and all seem to indicate that the forest can yet support and nourish them.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—Alexander Cunningham, the historian, was a native of this parish; and his father, Alexander Cunningham, was

* For a list of the different grasses, see the article "SELKIRKSHIRE," in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia.

minister of the parish. He was educated at Selkirk school, and originally destined for the church. During the reign of George I. he was appointed Minister to the State of Venice, and retained his functions from 1715 to 1720. Long after his death his Latin history came into the possession of Dr Hollingberry, Archdeacon of Chichester. The original has not been published, but a spirited translation, executed by William Thomsom, LL.D. made its appearance under the title of "The History of Great Britain from the Revolution in 1688 to the Accession of George the First." Lond. 1787. 2 vols. 4to.*

In an old house at Ettrick Hall, about a quarter of a mile from the church, with its gable standing to the road, and a broken window, through which a traveller may peep into the dark damp interior, was born and nursed "the Ettrick Shepherd."

" Here first I saw the rising morn ;
Here first my infant mind unfurl'd,
To judge this spot where I was born
The very centre of the world."

In this parish the truly patriotic and benevolent Lord Napier has his usual residence. "This nobleman; the descendant of the great Napier," to use the words of a popular writer, "has, for some years past, employed his time and talents, together with much money, in improving the stock on the hills, and introducing into a district, hitherto bound up in its own natural wildness, all the attributes and amenities proper to the most civilized regions."—"His enthusiasm has been one of benevolence, and from the full half of the beautiful cottages he has planted in this wilderness, the prayers of the widow and the orphan nightly ascend to Heaven in his behalf."

In this parish rest the remains of the Reverend Thomas Boston, sometime its minister. On his monument, on a white marble tablet, is the following inscription:—"As a testimony of esteem for the Reverend Thomas Boston Senior, whose private character was highly respectable; whose public labours were blessed to many; and whose valuable writings have contributed much to promote the advancement of vital Christianity, this monument (by the permission of relatives) is erected by a religious and grateful public, A. D. 1806. He was born at Dunse March 17, 1676. Ordained to the pastoral charge of Simprim September 21, 1699; removed

* Of this history Dr Thomson says, "We shall find reason to pronounce it a just and legitimate composition, and perhaps to rank its author in the first class of our historians."

from thence to Ettrick, May 1, 1707; and died May 20, 1732, leaving a widow and four children."

Land-owners.—The following noblemen and gentlemen are the chief proprietors and land-owners at present. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, proprietor of Buccleuch Easter and Wester, Anelshope, Crosslee, Deephope, Gair, and Roplaw Shiel. The right Honourable Lord Napier of Thirlstane, Gamescleugh, Scabcleugh, and Craighill. The Reverend T. G. Torry Anderson of Tushielaw and Cacrabank, &c.

Parochial Register.—The parish register of Ettrick commences in 1693. The Reverend James M'Mihan stands on the first page surrounded with his twelve elders. Each of these elders had his proper district assigned him, and the religious duties pointed out which he was to perform. One part of the duty was, that "two should watch in their turn on the Sabbath, to see that none withdrew from public worship, and that there might be no disorder about the doors, &c." The records during the ten years of Mr M'Mihan's incumbency are interesting.* Four years after his translation to Hownam, Mr Boston was called to the parish. He has ranged the births and baptisms by themselves,—has kept a separate portion for proclamations and marriages,—and we have his thickly written quarto—"the book of discipline." The records show he was a disciplinarian indeed.†

Antiquities, &c.—This parish has been sometimes called the united parishes of Ettrick and Buccleuch. If we were to take the extent of territory, indeed, belonging to the Buccleuch portion as a reason for entitling it to the name of *parish*, these lands are together as extensive as the lands of ancient Ettrick; but, in "a decreet of disjunction of certain lands (viz. the lands of Deepup, Mount common, Gemmelscleuch, Ettrick-side, Anelshope, Buccleuch Easter and Wester, Tushielaw, Cacrabank and the Corskies,) from the

* Something of the history of the people and the times may be gleaned from the records. At one time we find him with the greatest difficulty obtaining *heather, thack*, and *divots*, to keep the kirk and manse in repair; at another he is seen "scraping" for the poor; and anon making collections for the Bursars,—for the captives of Barbary,—for the harbour of Cullen,—for the bridges of Lanark and Melrose,—for the Church of Holland, &c. We read also that Tushielaw should buy a mort-cloth with the collection made at the sacrament,—and "speak for a bell if it be cheap."

† The registration of baptisms is regularly kept, as far we have been able to learn, from 1693 to 1711. But there is a blank between 1711 and 1725, which we cannot account for; the baptisms of 1725 being immediately after the baptisms of 1711 in the same volume. This may be one reason why there has been in a certain quarter, and still is, and may yet be, much fruitless litigation!!

parish of Yara and annexation of the same to the parish of Ettrick, dated 28th May 1650, we find the following reasons for their disunion from the one, and for their annexation to the other; these lands were "lyant far distant from their auin paroch kirk," they were therefore annexed to Ettrick "quharunto they ly mair *ewest*."

Buccleuch.—In the lonely vale of Rankle-burn, surrounded by a dense mass of hills, are the two forlorn farm-steadings of the Buccleuchs. A deep ravine, near the road leading from them to Hawick, is pointed out as the place where the buck was slain, and which gave, according to tradition, their name and title to the family of Buccleuch. Let the limping lines of old Satchels carry us thither.

" Good Lancelot Scot, I think his book be true,
Old Rankle-burn is designed Buccleuch now ;
Yet in his book no balls read he,
It was buck's cleuch, he read to me ;
He told me the name, the place, the spot,
Came all by the hunting of the buck.
In Scotland no Buccleuch was then.
Before the buck in the cleuch was slain."

A small crook, in the steepest part of the cleuch, about half-way between the east-house and the mill-dam-ford, (which is a pool or ford on the Hawick road,) is pointed out as the place where the buck was taken ; but, if Satchels be correct, it was not here the buck was slain, for he says,

" The very place where the buck was slain,
He built a stone house, and there he did remain."

Now the foundations of such a house, as we might conceive it should be, were dug up between three and four years ago, and upon the spot has been built, within these twelve months past, the farm-house of Easter Buccleuch. * In the buck's cleuch are the marks of the site of an old mill.

" For they built a mill on that same burn,
To grind dog's bran, tho' there grew no corn."

Fifty years ago, the walls of this mill were "knee high;" now they

* " There are no vestiges of any building at Buccleuch, except the site of a chapel, &c." says Sir Walter Scott in his notes to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*; and all the writers we have seen giving a description of this ancient and famed spot, use nearly the same language. But we are inclined to think that the family of Buccleuch had once a baronial residence *here*." See in the *Notes to the Lay of the Last Minstrel*, an account of this spot written by the person who dug up the foundations.

are only a rude outline, being a very little above the ground, overgrown with moss. About a Scotch mile above the farm-steading, and close on the Rankle-burn, is to be seen the lonely spot on which once stood the noted kirk or chapel of Buccleuch. There is still here to be seen the feeble outline of the old wall, with the kirk-yard dike; and around the whole is the crumbling form of a *stell* or *fauld*, for the sheep on the farm at certain seasons. The marks where houses seem to have stood, are still visible on the burn side.

Tushielaw.—Passing from Buccleuch, we come upon the gray ruins of the tower of Tushielaw, on the side of a hill near the road on the Ettrick, which seem to request a moment's inspection. It is not easy to say whether it is more famous in song, in tradition, or in the realities connected with its history. A powerful family of the name of Scott were once its inhabitants; and they were not more powerful than famous, as freebooters and moss-troopers. In 1502, "Patrick Turnbull, in Walchope, produced a remission for resetting, supplying, and intercommuning with Archibald and Ninian Armstrangis, and William Scott, son of David Scott of Tushielaw, in their stouthreifs, slaughters, burnings, and other crimes committed by them." And there is a famous tradition that Adam Scott, (probably brother of the said William,) commonly called the King of Thieves, on being taken by King James V. one morning before breakfast, was hung on an ash tree over his own gate; along the principal branches of which it is said there are still to be seen the *nicks* and *hollows* formed by the ropes on which many an unhappy wight had been suspended by the rigorous and powerful baron.* It is to this noted chief of the border we find granted a "Remission for treasonably breaking prison, and his warde within the castle of Edinburge, apud Edinburge," November 28, 1505. Nearly twenty years after this, (March 25, 1525,) we stumble on

* The tradition is undoubtedly incorrect. Adam Scot, called the King of Thieves, was tried, convicted, and beheaded, at Edinburgh, on the 18th May 1530. Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 145. The words of the record are as follows: "1530, Maii 18. Adam Scot of Tuschelaw, convicted of art and part of theftously taking black mail from the time of his entry within the castle of Edinburgh, in ward, from John Brown in Hoprow; and of art and part of theftously taking black mail from Andrew Thorbrand, and William his brother; and for art and part of theftously taking of black mail from the poor tenants of Hopecaillow; and of art and part of theftously taking black mail from the tenants of Eschescheill. Beheaded. Quhaerfor the king caused hang the 18th May William Cockburn of Henderlande, and Adame Scott of Tuschelaw, thieves apprehendit in Edinburgh, to terrifie otheris;—and they were heidit, and their heidis fixit upon the Tolbuith of Edinburg."

his name among a list of border barons who agreed to assist the Earle of Angus to stanch theft, reiff, slaughter, &c. &c.

Thirlstane.—About two miles above Tushielaw stands the old tower of Thirlstane surrounded by a few venerable ash trees. The young springing wood serves as a guard both for the old baronial castle and the lately erected seat of the family of Thirlstane.

Gamescleuch.—On the opposite side of the Ettrick is to be seen a pretty distinct outline of the tower of Gamescleuch. In the genealogy of Scott, &c. in the possession of Lord Napier, it is said : “ John Scott of Thirlestane married a daughter of Scott of Allanhagh, by whom he had four sons, Robert, his heir, and Simon, called Long-spear, who was tutor of Thirlstane, and built the tower of Gamescleugh.

Old Chapels, &c.—Near the farm-house of Kirkhope, (on the Ettrick,) the place of an old kirk steading is still visited ; its site is so covered with grass and moss, however, that its dimensions are barely discernible. Near the farm-house of Chapelhope (on the side of the lakes,) is the place of the steading of another chapel. It is now grown over with moss, but the enclosure and form of the foundations of the chapel are still perfectly distinct. There is yet something like the appearance of the rows of graves ; and not many years back, some “ *muggers*” deposited in these romantic and sequestered grounds the remains of one of their dead.

There have no coins been dug up in the parish in so far as we know. An old tripod or urn, and two axiform stones, small toward the middle, probably used for the skinning of the red deer, were found some years ago, and are now in the possession of Lord Napier. The cane, and what is said to have been the small sword, of Boston, are still preserved in the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

It appears from tradition,—from the amount of church collections,—from the number of paupers on the roll on the sessional records,—and from the number of small farms, with the farmers and their families residing on them, that the population 140 years ago must have been much greater than at present. The following is the state of the population subsequently.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|-----|
| In the year 1755, | . | . | 397 |
| ———— 1790, | . | . | 470 |
| ———— 1801, | . | . | 445 |
| ———— 1811, | . | . | 440 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|-----|
| In the year 1821, | . | . | 475 |
| ————— 1831, | . | . | 530 |

The average of baptisms for these last four years, viz. from 1829 to 1832, both inclusive, is 18; of marriages, 3; of deaths, 7. The number of families in the parish is 89.

The number of persons employed in agriculture is 75; in manufactures, retail trade, or handicraft, 24; of professional or other educated men, 4; of labourers not agricultural, 37. The only resident proprietor is Lord Napier.

The people speak the dialect of the forest, which is simple and soft in its tones, and, we should think, rather agreeable to the ear of a stranger. They are a reading people, and well-informed on almost every subject. We can still trace amongst them the seeds of the gospel as sown here by the venerable Boston. They are quiet and inoffensive, and seem to cultivate all the dispositions which tend to peace and good agreement, to religion and morality.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy—The number of acres in the parish has been stated at 43,968. Of these about 217 are under the plough, and about 163 acres more might be profitably cultivated. Above 270 are planted and beautified with thriving young wood. About 43,086 acres are constantly waste, or in permanent pasture, whereof 120 are meadow. Hard and soft wood alike rejoice in the soil; and were the lands only protected indeed from the flocks, we could almost believe “that every foot of ground would again spring up in natural wood.” There are besides about 2700 acres now enclosed. Of these there are one or more fields of greater or less extent on every farm.

The parish consists of twenty-nine farms, there being no common lands now. Of these, nine are only occupied by resident tenants, the remaining twenty being led farms. Those tenants who do reside amongst us are mostly bachelors,—respectable in the world,—and as wealthy and well-doing as the pressure of these hard past times will admit. But the day seems coming when every farm must have its own tenant, with his growing and flourishing young family around him, like the shepherds and shepherdesses of our border legends.

Rent of Land, &c.—The hills and low lands taken together, though in general fertile and productive, as far as the climate will admit, and rich as pasture, yet, owing to the distance from mar-

kets, and to the nature and quality of the food required for the flocks, &c. let at an average of from 2s. 6d. to 15s. an acre. A cow can be grazed for 40s.; an ox for about 45s.; and a sheep for 5s. through summer and winter; the grazing of an ox being about nine times the annual grazing of one sheep.

Breeds of Live Stock, &c.—"From the time of King James," says Mr Hogg in his Statistics of Selkirkshire, "down to the year 1785, the black-faced, or forest breed, had continued to be the sole breed of sheep reared in the district, and happy had it been for the inhabitants had no other been introduced to this day. However, about that period, the farmers in the eastern division of the county began to introduce the Cheviot breed, which, for the space of ten years, continued to creep westward, by slow degrees, till the year 1796, when the demand for Cheviots began to increase so rapidly, and still to go on progressively, till it absolutely grew little better than the tulipo-mania that once seized on the Dutch." Ettrick had soon her complement of this new breed. They first appeared on the farm of Crosslee. Shortly after they were to be seen spreading and feeding on all our pastures; and in spite of the indignation of the old shepherd at the rash conduct of his young master, the black-faced "ewie wi' the crooket horn" was banished entirely from her native hills.

On two or three farms, a few years back, the "old black-faced" had again made their appearance; but they begin again to decrease; for they find they are only welcome where the "white-faced gentry" will not thrive. Notwithstanding the regrets of the "shepherd," therefore, we rather think the Cheviots will continue to be our permanent friends and favourites. The number of sheep, as near as we can guess, may be about 26,000. The cattle here are of inferior concern. The cows are generally short-horned, or of the Ayrshire breed. Highland kyloes are beginning to be introduced on two or three farms, to pasture among the flocks on the hills. The practice is most commendable. They feed on the leavings of the sheep. They bring the rough pasture to a *bearing* for producing a more plentiful crop of pasture-grass; and a double advantage is gained, for a double crop is maintained and obtained, while the whole pasturage on which they feed is enriched, bettered, increased, and prepared for a plentiful revival on the following spring. The whole number of black cattle at Whitsunday (1832,) was 389, and of horses 58.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows :

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----------|
| 108 acres oats and barley, at L. 4 per acre, | - | - | - | L. 432 |
| 54 ——— potatoe and turnip, - | - | - | - | 351 |
| 54 ——— grass, at L. 3 per acre, - | - | - | - | 162 |
| 120 ——— meadow, at L. 2, 10s. per acre, - | - | - | - | 300 |
| 42966 ——— pasture, - | - | - | - | 11500 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | L. 12745 |

Pastoral Society.—“ To facilitate the improvement of live stock,” says Mr Alexander Laidlaw, an observing and intelligent farmer, “ the first pastoral society was instituted in 1818, by the enterprising exertions, and under the immediate patronage, of Lord Napier. It can now reckon amongst its members the greater part of the landed proprietors of the county, besides a good many patriotic gentlemen of the country. And it has not only been uniformly supported by every respectable farmer in Selkirkshire, but also by many of that valuable class of men in Peebles, Roxburgh, and Dumfries-shires. This society not only stirs up a spirit of emulation among farmers in general, but serves also as a school where the young farmer will *see* the real and apparent properties of live stock pointed out by the judges, but also *hear* the relative advantages and disadvantages of almost every breed fearlessly discussed at the annual general meeting.” The society meets annually, and generally on the 18th June. The meetings are held at the three following places, viz. one year at Newark, near Selkirk ; another at Tinnies, in Yarrow ; and the third at Thirlstane fair grounds, in Ettrick. *

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, Roads, &c.—The nearest market-town is Moffat, at the distance of sixteen miles. But Selkirk, the county town, about eighteen (miles) from Ettrick Kirk, and Hawick, about the same distance, are the chief marketing places. The post town is Selkirk. Letters and newspapers, &c. are conveyed twice a week by a regular carrier belonging to the parish ; and there are, besides, two from Selkirk, two from Hawick, two from Edinburgh, and one from Galashiels weekly during the summer months. There are about thirty miles of road in the parish on which any car-

* As to improvements in this parish, we refer the reader to a volume on this subject by Lord Napier, published in 1822, and entitled, “ A Treatise on Practical Store Farming, as applicable to the mountainous region of Ettrick Forest, and the Pastoral District of Scotland in general.”

riage may travel. And the trustees, under the unremitting superintendence of Lord Napier, are still making and mending. "The roads and bridges," says Mr Hogg in his Statistical account of Selkirkshire, "were never put into a complete state of repair till the present Lord Napier settled in the country; and to his perseverance Ettrick forest is indebted for the excellence of her roads, now laid out and finished in every practicable direction. With an indomitable spirit of perseverance, he has persisted against much obloquy and vituperation, and from none more than the writer of this article. But honour to whom honour is due, Lord Napier has effected wonders; and the late impervious Ettrick forest may compare, in the beauty and efficiency of her roads, with any mountain district in the united kingdom."

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is in nearly the centre of the parish. Two or three families are distant from it more than six miles, yet some of them are almost as regular in their attendance, as the day returns, for public worship. It was rebuilt (and enlarged) on the same site nine years ago. It is very neatly fitted up within; chaste in its style; commodious and comfortable. It is seated to contain 450 free sitters. The manse was built within these last twenty years. It is also in good repair, and comfortable. How different from the time when the incumbent could with difficulty obtain *divots* and *heather* to *thack* it and make it habitable! The glebe contains about twenty-three English acres; ten of which were lately allowed as pasturage or grass glebe. The whole may be reckoned at about L. 20 a-year. The stipend, in 1755, converted to money, was L. 65, 2s. 2d. Immediately prior to the 30th of June 1808, it consisted of L. 105, 11s. 1½d. in money, with two chalders of oat-meal and two of barley, together with L. 8, 6s. 8d. as allowance for communion elements (*see Survey of Selkirkshire*, 1829). The present stipend is fifteen chalders, or 174 quarters, 6 bushels, and ¼ gallon imperial measure, half meal and half barley, with L. 100 Scots, or L. 8, 6s. for communion elements. The average yearly amount of stipend converted to money may be L. 230. The locality (*interim*) of the parish of Ettrick and Buccleuch commenced with crop and year 1821, and was modified in February 1822.

There are no chapels or dissenting meeting-houses amongst us, but there are several Dissenters. There is a family of four of the Relief persuasion. There are above thirty-two united to the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, the *old light* of which Boston speaks,

who form a part of the congregation of Ettrick and Eskdale. They have sometimes sermon here, though they have no stated minister, house, or place of meeting. There are two score and ten belonging to the flock of the United Associate Synod. In all, there may be 15 families of Dissenters. Their general place of worship is in Selkirk; but as the distance is so great, many of them attend the parish church as regularly as the most of our most regular attenders.

The parish church, it would appear, from the old records of the parish, has been generally *well frequented*, though we do not know if we might say *well attended*. After the admission of Mr Boston (in 1707), there is a complaint by him on record, of the “indecent carriage of the people at the kirk, going *out* and *in*, and *up* and *down* the kirk-yard the time of divine service. The clerk was therefore appointed to go out after the first psalm in the forenoon and afternoon, to see if any be found about the church-yard, &c.” Afterwards, the elders were enjoined to “prevent or correct the abuse.” But what was to be expected of a people shut up from the whole world. The road to their county town was little better than the channel of the river. They had long been destitute, too, of all the means of improvement. “There had been little knowledge of religion among them,” says Boston, “till the time of confusion and persecution; so that John Anderson in Gamescleuch told me of a time when there was not a Bible in the church, except the minister’s, his father’s, and another.” There was besides this, a vacancy of four years from the time Mr M’Mihan left the parish till Mr Boston was settled among this people as their pastor, though every tenant had applied to his laird again and again, to endeavour to have them supplied with a Gospel minister. The kirk of Ettrick is, however, now well attended. When Mr Boston dispensed the sacrament for the first time (July 16), in 1710, he says ‘he had only about fifty-seven communicants belonging to the parish.’ When he dispensed the same ordinance for the last time, (June 13) in 1731, the number of communicants was 777.*

* Boston gives the following interesting account of the solemnity. “The tokens distributed to communicants were about 777; the collection on the three days L. 77, 13s. 4d. Scots. There were about nine score strangers in Midhope; four score of them William Black, husband of Isbel Biggar, entertained, having baken for them half a boll of meal for bread, bought 4s. 10d. worth of wheat bread, and killed three lambs, and made thirty beds. And I believe their neighbour Isbel’s brother would be much the same. This I record once for all, for a swatch of the hospitality of the parish; for God hath given this people a largeness of heart, to communicate of their substance on these and other

As before the times of the Bostons, so after their days, the people of Ettrick had not for any length of time any regularly stated pastor. One was translated to another parish, a second died in early life, and a third soon acquired evil habits, and lived to an advanced age, leaving a "bare subsistence," to a helper, who resigned his charge always just as soon as he could find another open door. He has now been dead between twenty and thirty years, yet the writer of this article is the twelfth incumbent from the elder Boston, in the period of very little more than a century. The people of Ettrick, therefore, have had many changes by no means favourable to spiritual or mental improvement; yet we can say, that our congregation, considering our population, is by no means inconsiderable, and that our communicants have increased, and are increasing in numbers every year. When we first dispensed the sacrament in this place, eight years ago, the number of communicants belonging to the parish might be about 118. Last year (August 26, 1832), they had advanced to the number of 147.

Bible Society.—A Bible and missionary society was instituted here in 1819, "having for its object the dissemination of the scriptures, without note or comment." The present Lord Napier is president of that society, and a great proportion of the heads of families, both churchmen and dissenters, have enrolled themselves as members. There is an annual sermon preached in behalf of its funds. The average of the collection and subscriptions for the last four years, is L. 11, 12s. 4d. and these have been generally equally divided between the Edinburgh Bible and Missionary Societies.

Education.—There is one parochial school. Mr John Beattie, a teacher of this school, died about seven years ago, his father and he together having been schoolmasters in the parish for the space of 101 years. There are no other stated schools in the parish. A woman may be seen sometimes giving lessons to a few small children. In the house of a shepherd may be found sometimes also, a boy or girl teaching the children of two or three families united. Our scattered population, indeed, is unfavourable to the education of the young; yet we believe, there is not one above six years old who has not been taught the first lessons of reading, and been instructed in the principles of religion. The present

occasions also. And my heart has long been on that occasion particularly concerned for a blessing on their substance, with such a natural emotion as if they had been begotten of my body. Those within a mile of the church still had a greater weight on solemn occasions."

teacher is the first in the parish who ever received a classical education. All the branches usually taught at a parochial school may now be obtained here. The school salary is the maximum, and the amount of school fees, &c. may be about L. 15 a-year. The schoolmaster has all the legal accommodations allowed to teachers, if by this be meant school-house and garden. The people are alive to the benefits of education; and we believe, that they are not far inferior to those of any parish of the same kind in the south of Scotland.

Library.—A parish library was instituted between twenty and thirty years ago. It was long in a weak state, but still it stood and gained strength; now it is vigorous and progressing. There are belonging to it between thirty and forty members, and it contains nearly 600 volumes. A list of its proprietors, with the laws of the society, and a catalogue of the books, were printed in 1824, a donation of five guineas being presented by Lord Napier for that purpose, who is also himself a member, and who, with two or three other proprietors of the parish, have presented to it some very valuable volumes.

Poor.—Regular assessments appear to have been introduced in 1725, and have continued ever since. In 1791 “the number of persons receiving alms was fifteen: the assessment upon the heritors for their support L. 37, per annum.” The number of persons at present on the roll is five, among whom is a well known character, the original of the “Davie Gellatly of Waverley.” The assessment for the present year (1833), is L. 23, 19s. 1d. with an addition of L. 4, allowed as collector’s fee. But the average number of paupers for the last seven years is 7, and the average sum of assessment for the same time is L. 41, 15s. 2d. The church collections have been generally appropriated to assist the industrious poor. For the last year, these collections have amounted to nearly L. 16, but the average sum of the last seven years may be stated at little more than L. 10.

Prisons.—Though there be no resident magistrate or lawyer generally in the parish, or ready way of getting legal redress, yet there is a small prison “the round house,” near the fair grounds. It is placed there, however, perhaps more *in terrorem* than *in pœnas*.

Fairs.—Here there are four fairs held annually. One in the end of March for the sale of *grit ewes*; for the hiring of servants, and especially for the hiring of shepherds. Another held in the end of July, called the *lamb fair*, where wool and lambs are disposed

of, and a great deal of other business transacted. The third is in the month of September, for the sale of *draft ewes* and small lambs, and for the purchasing of tups and fat sheep. This is the largest of the four, and is a very important market both for the seller and purchaser. From 8000 to 10,000 head of stock have stood in it, and many of them exchanged owners. The fourth, called the Little fair, is held in November, and is principally for selling and purchasing fat sheep for *marts*. Sometimes, also, stock for *keep* is exposed and disposed of, and occasionally a master may find a servant who has been disappointed at the general time of hiring. No custom has hitherto been levied, and we hear that it is not likely that ever any will be exacted.

Inns.—Two years ago a new inn was built on the banks of the Ettrick, near the old mansion of Tushielaw. It is neatly fitted up, and has several comfortable apartments.

Fuel.—Peat is the usual fuel; and it can be cut for about a shilling the cart-load. But coal is beginning to be a favourite, and many would prefer a “coal fire,” were it not for the expence, on account of the distance from which the material is to be brought. But we are glad to see the long-contemplated road across the Moorfoot hills at length commenced. It will be of immense advantage to the district of Yarrow and Ettrick in the importation of coal and lime.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

“I remember,” says an old man of *eighty*, “when there was not a cart in the parish, nor above Singlee, (ten miles below Ettrick kirk), and but one little enclosed park behind Thirlestane.”—“They carried the manure to the fields, and the peat from the hills in *creels* on horses backs,” now there are about thirty-six carts and twenty ploughs, and on every farm one or more enclosures. Formerly there was a village at Ettrick House, containing thirty-two families; now there is but one house inhabited by a shepherd, built on the ruins of an old tower, which perhaps gave rise to the name. Two elders generally resided here, and out of a list of sixteen poor, seven had their residence in Ettrick House. Of the “ten proprietors of the parish,” says the writer of the last Statistical Account, “none reside in it.” At present, Lord Napier, the patron of the church and parish, lives amongst us, and from his seat as a centre, life and cultivation are spreading and diffusing their happy influence all around us.

"The Scotch fir," says Dr Russell, "is almost the only species of wood to be seen here, and that in very small quantities." Now there is almost every forest tree of every name, mixing with waving pines and firs, in all the varieties of their shades and colouring. The seat of Lord Napier is embosomed in woods, and many of the farm steadings and snug cottages on the Ettrick, are fringed and skirted round with a few lovely young trees. Improvement of this kind, indeed, is spreading all around us, in something like the imperceptible stealth of creeping ivy. The black-faced sheep depastured our hills forty years ago; their crop of "wool," says Dr Russell, "was of the coarsest kind, and little adapted for manufacture; a stone of it being worth little more than six shillings." Now the Cheviot breed is introduced, and is in much repute among the generality of the store-farmers, both for its wool and for the reception it meets with in the fat market. "The farmers in former times," adds the above writer, "fled with their flocks into Annandale for shelter and provision during the winter storms:" Now they no longer "build up semicircular walls of the dead, to screen the living," but have *stells* or *rounds* into which the shepherds gather them when the threatening snow approaches, and have, besides, a store of *bog-hay* on the hills as a supply for the flocks in case of a severe and continued storm. "The lochs, partly in this parish, and partly in Yarrow, (says the above-quoted writer,) formerly lay like two dark deep dreary pools, shut round with an insuperable barrier," and, though abounding in fish of various kinds, were rarely visited. Now, St Mary's and the Lowes, surrounded by verdant hills, and associated with many romantic legends, form a scene alike interesting to the angler and the literary pilgrim.

September 1833.

SUMMARY.—TABLE I.

| PARISH. | Square miles in extent. | Acres. | | | | | Total yearly value of raw produce raised. |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|---------------|---|----------------------|-------------|---|
| | | Cultivated, or occasionally in tillage. | Uncultivated. | (Capable of being cultivated with a profit) | In undivided common. | Under-wood. | |
| Selkirk, | 10 | 3000 | 2300 | 0 | 0 | 1000 | L. 10,681 18 0 |
| Galashiels, | 15 | 3000 | 6000 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 10,869 10 6 |
| Yarrow, | 111 | 2740 | 67800 | 260 | 0 | 610 | 28,606 0 0 |
| Ettieck, | 68 | 217 | 48086 | 163 | 0 | 270 | 12,745 0 0 |
| | 204 | 8957 | 119186 | 423 | 0 | 2380 | L. 62,902 8 6 |

SUMMARY.—TABLE II.

| POPULATION IN 1831. | | | ECCLESIASTICAL STATE. | | | | Parochial Schoolmaster's Enrolments. | | SAVING BANKS. | | Annual amount of Contributions for the Poor. | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| In Towns. | In Villages. | In the Country. | Total. | Families attending Church. | Families of Dissenters and Seceders. | Amount of Parochial Ministers' Stipend. | Schools of every description. | Salary. | Fees. | Total. | Number. | Amount yearly invested. | Amount yearly withdrawn. | Total. |
| 1800 | 0 | 1038 | 2838 | 220 | 385 | L. 302 2 2½ | 7 | L. 50 0 0 | 0 | L. 90 | 1 | L. 240 | 263 | L. 236 1 5 |
| 1130 | 0 | 404 | 1534 | 184 | 88 | 242 11 9½ | 5 | 30 0 0 | 0 | 60 | 1 | 299 | 807 | 122 10 0 |
| 0 | 188 | 1083 | 1271 | 210 | 17 | 259 6 5½ | 4 | 51 6 6½ | 3½ | 22 | 1 | 29 | 37 | 174 0 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 530 | 530 | 74 | 15 | 280 0 0 | 1 | 33 0 0 | 15 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 51 15 2 |
| 2830 | 138 | 3050 | 6118 | 688 | 455 | 1094 0 5½ | 17 | 184 6 6½ | 177 | 341 6 6½ | 3 | 568 | 607 | 584 6 7 |

EXPLANATIONS OF THE ABOVE TABLES.

1. SELKIRK.—The state of the Poor's Funds omits the interest of a mortified sum of 200 merks.
2. GALASHIELS.—The amount yearly withdrawn from the Savings Bank is calculated on the supposition, that the sum due to depositors at the end of the year 1830 was the same as that due at the end of the year 1829; and the average allowance in house of the poor who receive interim aid, is assumed to be equal to that given to the enrolled poor.
3. YARROW.—The parochial schoolmaster's enrolments are apportioned between two schoolmasters.
4. The averages for a number of years past are generally stated in the above columns for Yearly Produce, Schools, Banks, and Poor's Funds; the exceptions are specified in the text.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE COUNTY OF SELKIRK. *

This county, the most inland of Scotland, is bounded on the north by Peebles-shire and Mid-Lothian; on the east by Roxburghshire; and on the south by the shires of Roxburgh and Dumfries. Its figure is so irregular as to contain but a small area compared with the greatest length and breadth. The extreme length from the source of the Ettrick to that of the Caddon is about 30 miles; and the extreme breadth from the Borthwick Water to the foot of Glensax is nearly 20.

Topographical Appearance.—Viewed from a commanding height the whole county seems crowded with hills, among which neither a house nor any mark of human life appears. In the lower parts of the district, where the country is more open, and the surface undulating, cultivation occupies a considerable breadth, covering the minor hills, and skirting the base of the mountains; but in the higher parts it is confined to narrow strips along the streams, and so deeply seated as to be invisible to the eye from any of the adjacent summits. The valleys are too narrow to be called dales, and are simply named from their rivers. That of Tweed, being more important, has obtained the name of Tweedside; but, in the common language of the country, as if the smaller rivers had not a side on which a habitation might be placed, it is said of the people, as if they lived in waters, “he lives in Caddon, he comes from Ale, or he belongs to Ettrick, or to Yarrow.” The hills vary in elevation from a few hundred to two thousand feet. They have an appearance of sameness in their general character, but they have often a considerable variety; in particular those around St Mary’s Loch and the Loch of the Lowes, where they rise in steep dark masses, especially towards the head of the glen, having their own tops concealed in clouds. The county has also some of the least agreeable scenery which the eye of man can endure, that of a cold plain black heath; which lies between Borthwick Water and the Ettrick, and which is relieved only by small lakes of no character, serving only to suggest the swampy nature of their situation.

Rivers.—The Tweed gives ten miles of its beautiful course to adorn this county, and the Gala four miles, along the north-eastern boundary. The Ettrick, which joins the Tweed three miles higher

* These remarks have been furnished by the Rev. N. Paterson, Minister of Galashiels.

than the Gala, is properly the river of the county, dividing it nearly in the middle, and having a course of about thirty miles within it. The Yarrow flowing out of St Mary's Loch, ends its short and sweet career in the Ettrick, near the town of Selkirk.

Mountains.—The best idea that can be formed of the mountains of this parish, may be gathered from what they appear once to have been, viz. one large high bed of greywacke and clay-slate, now cut by the larger rivers into long-shaped divisions, and cross cut, by the smaller streams, to a less depth, and into smaller and rounded divisions. In the rocky pool there can be no question as to a recent cut having been made; and there stratum answers to stratum on the opposite sides; so is it with the whole valley wide or narrow. The dip of the strata is various; but the direction, from N. W. to S. E. is so uniform that it might serve for a guide to the wanderer in mist. There are exceptions, however, to this uniformity in construction and in materials. At Newhouse Lynns, seven miles above Selkirk, the rocks forming the banks of the Ettrick, rise to a surprising height and perpendicularity. There the strata deviating from their plain courses are strangely incurvated; an appearance likewise presented at Newark, where the Yarrow, in the same manner, has quarried its rocks for the benefit of the mineralogist. The component matter of the hills, at the western extremity of the county, on the borders of Peebles-shire, where extensive layers of porphyry alternating with thin strata of slate and granite are found, appears also to be changed. The whole county, from its great multitude of hills and streams, affords the best illustrations of the coincidence of vallies, and of the exact proportion that subsists (the rocky substances being so much the same) between the descending torrents, and their respective grooves.

Turnpike Roads and Carriages.—The Edinburgh and Carlisle road by Galashiels and Selkirk runs eleven miles within the county. The public carriages on this road are the London mail, and one daily Stage-coach. Belonging to the same line of road are nine miles of turnpike from Crosslee by Yairbridge to Selkirk. No coach passes this way, the road being hilly, and that by Galashiels being preferred. From Hollilee, on the borders of Peebles-shire, to Galashiels are nine miles of turnpike. On this road there is one daily coach from Glasgow by Lanark to Kelso. From the borders of Peebles-shire, in the parish of Traquair and passing through Etterick, is a road of twenty-five miles lately made turnpike; but partly maintained by Statute labour.

On this road, tolls are exacted only of travellers not belonging to the county. Carriers, but no coaches, pass this way.

Tolls.—The tolls are let annually by public roup. The rates are for a chaise, 1s. a gig, 6d. a rider or a cart, 3d. The amount of revenue for this year is L. 1089, including one pontage for the new bridges over Tweed and Ettrick, which yields L. 125.

Character of the People.—The description under this head in the account of the parish of Selkirk is applicable in general to the population of the county. It may be added, that all persons above six or seven years of age can read.

The following table of the ages of the population has been taken from the returns made to government in 1821. *

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------|------------------|---|------|
| Under 5, | - | 974 | From 50 to 60, | - | 425 |
| From 5 to 10, | - | 980 | 60 to 70, | - | 254 |
| 10 to 15, | - | 748 | 70 to 80, | - | 127 |
| 15 to 20, | - | 686 | 80 to 90, | - | 38 |
| 20 to 30, | - | 1048 | 90 to 100, | - | 7 |
| 30 to 40, | - | 753 | 100 and upwards, | - | 0 |
| 40 to 50, | - | 587 | | | |
| | | | | | 6637 |

Miscellaneous Observations.—The arable land of the county lies on an elevation of from 280 to 800 feet. None of it, therefore, is the best as to climate. Yet it is a remarkable fact, that the agriculture of this county is equal to any in Great Britain. Wheat abounds in the lower districts, and has been raised at the height of 700 feet, to what would be called a good crop in the Lothians; and considerably higher, near to the head of Ettrick, oats, turnips, barley, and clover hay thrive in regular rotation. We could wish much that the dwelling-houses and farm-buildings in this county were as worthy of commendation as the agricultural skill which is every where displayed in it.

* In this enumeration are included those small parts of the parishes of Ashkirk, Inverleithen, Peebles, Robertson, and Stow, which belong to the county of Selkirk. The ratios, however, may be held to apply to the four parishes before described, as forming the county of Selkirk.

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